

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

---

Fall 1997 Volume 67 Number 4



IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

# IOWA BIRD LIFE

Fall 1997

Volume 67, Number 4

## CONTENTS

---

IN MEMORIAM: PETER CHRISTIAN PETERSEN, 1936-1967.....	105
<i>Mary Lou Petersen</i>	
THE PEABODY-BORDNER BIRD EGG AND NEST COLLECTION AT LUTHER COLLEGE'S HOSLETT MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY.....	110
<i>Tex A. Sordahl and Jessica Leppaluoto</i>	
MEET AN IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST: STEPHEN J. DINSMORE .....	117
<i>Hank Zaletel</i>	
FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1997.....	120
<i>James J. Dinsmore</i>	
CALIFORNIA GULL IN DICKINSON COUNTY.....	128
<i>Jim Bangma and Ann Johnson</i>	
CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR IN LYON COUNTY.....	130
<i>Dennis Henrickson</i>	
BLACK-HEADED GULL AT BIG CREEK LAKE.....	131
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
FIRST RECORD OF A NEOTROPIC CORMORANT FOR IOWA .....	131
<i>Stephen J. Dinsmore</i>	
A RECORD LATE CAPE MAY WARBLER IN IOWA.....	132
<i>Jim Sinclair</i>	
HOARY REDPOLL IN WARREN COUNTY .....	133
<i>Ann Johnson</i>	
I.O.U. BUSINESS.....	134
<i>Board of Directors meeting, 20 September 1997</i>	
<i>Fall Business meeting, 20 September 1997</i>	
BOOK REVIEW.....	136
<i>The Birds of Story County</i>	
FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE .....	136

---

FRONT COVER: Peter C. Petersen, 1992.

INSIDE BACK COVER: Editorial Staff, Subscription/Membership Information, Instructions to Authors,  
Officers, Board of Directors, Standing Committees.

BACK COVER: Meeting Dates, Report Deadlines, Birdline, Materials Available.

Copyright 1997 Iowa Ornithologists' Union

IN MEMORIAM:  
PETER CHRISTIAN PETERSEN, 1936-1997  
MARY LOU PETERSEN

Peter said, "I'm tired and I want to go to sleep." With those words, Pete Petersen slipped into his last sleep. Later, with Mary Lou and Kelly McKay at his side, Peter he took his last breath. It was 12:55 a.m. on Saturday, 12 July 1997.

In a large, white Victorian house across seventh street from Davenport's Masonic Temple and a stone's throw from the Davenport Museum on Brady Street, Pete Petersen took his first breath. It was 10 December 1936. He was born to Peter Christian and Paula Christina Roddewig Petersen. The elder Pete was a well-known Davenport adventurer. He had been a race car driver, a veteran of two wars, and even took a ride on the wing of the first plane to come to Davenport. He had come to the United States from Denmark when he was 15 years old. He was 60 years old when Peter was born. Peter's mother had been the fourth of the six Roddewig children born to a prominent Davenport banker. She was a business woman prior to her marriage and the birth of Peter.

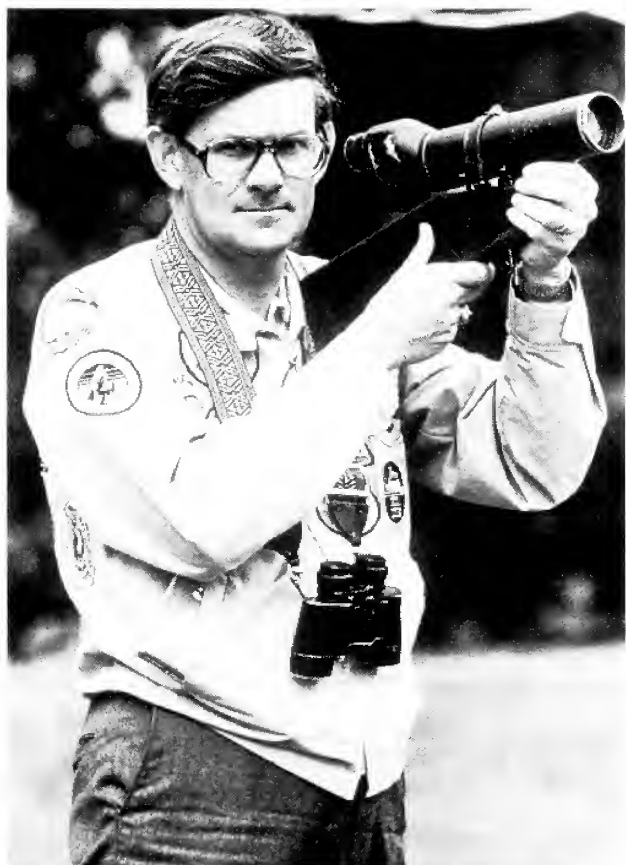
The first three years of Peter's life were typical of a child with two doting, older parents. But in the summer of 1940, when Peter was three years old, an event took place which was to channel his interest into ornithology. One day both parents believed the other to be watching young Peter. His father was in the final negotiations of selling a Packard to a Davenport doctor. Peter decided to cross the street to be with his father and was struck by a speeding car. The doctor swept Peter up into his arms and instructed his father to drive to St. Luke's Hospital where the leg was saved. But, his parents were told, the leg was fragile at the ankle and, should it be broken again, he would lose it. This ruled out competitive sports. How could Peter's sports loving and competitive nature be satisfied?

When Peter was in first grade in 1942, bone graft operations on the leg caused him to be restricted to bed for long periods of time. Entertaining an energetic youngster in days before television meant books, puzzles, coloring, and other non-strenuous activities as well as his school work. Peter's mother was interested in birds. Bird identification was a challenge that could occupy an active young mind. But so could the identification of airplanes and ships of the allied forces, for this was war time.

In 1949, when Peter was 12, he took a course in ornithology for children at the Davenport Museum. Fred Hall was director there and was extremely interested in ornithology. So much so, that the Wilson Ornithological Society (W.O.S.) was invited to meet in Davenport in 1951. Peter and his mother attended and Peter joined the organization. He joined the American Ornithologists' Union (A.O.U.) and the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (I.O.U.) in 1952, and the Cooper Ornithological Society (C.O.S.) in 1953. By this time Peter was a very active young member of the Tri-City Bird club, which he joined in 1948. He birded with Elton Fawks who thought of him as a son. Elton was a nationally known leader in the fight to ban pesticides which were affecting the Bald Eagle population. Peter birded with Tom Morrissey, Ed Meyer, James Hodges, and Norwood Hazard, all members of the bird club. Peter became a life-long friend of and birded with Lewis D. (Del) Blevins and Dennis Sheets. Peter, Del, and Dennis were in Quad-City high schools but not the same high schools. In 1955, Peter formed a friendship with a young Clinton birder, Fred Leshner. These two were brought together by another museum director, Lange Bailey.

Peter birded with a younger boy, T. James Lewis, who became a close friend and later a naturalist in Costa Rica.

Peter graduated from Davenport High School in 1954. He attended college at Iowa State College (not a university until after he graduated in 1958) where he majored in zoology and wildlife management. There he met Dennis Carter. The two spent many weekends birding Wall Lake and Little Wall Lake and the area around Dennis Carter's home in Webster City.



*Figure 1. Peter C. Petersen in field clothes, early 1980s.*

Peter became interested in bird banding and joined Inland Bird Banding Association in 1954. Peter obtained his banding permit in 1957 and began his 20-year study of bird migration in the area at the back of Pine Hill Cemetery in Davenport in 1959. During the time that Peter was an active bird bander, he banded more than 100,000 birds of 257 species. Younger members of I.O.U. will remember the Petersen Book Company sales table at I.O.U. meetings, but those who have been around longer remember that Peter used to set up nets to catch birds to show to members. One of the most memorable banding experiences at an I.O.U. meeting was the spring meeting in 1962 at Cedar Falls. The nets were set up at the top of the hill in Riverview Park where the meeting was taking place. There was a huge wave of warblers moving through that Saturday. Every time a train passed the steep, weedy hillside below the net set, warblers were chased into the nets in remarkable numbers.

1962 was an eventful year for Peter. The Davenport Museum where Peter worked as curator of education closed while a new building was being completed. The old church building housing the museum had been condemned. Peter went to work for Crescent Macaroni and Cracker Company. This was a business in which Peter's family had an interest. On 18 August 1962, Peter married Mary Lou Petersen (she did not change her name) in Cedar Falls. He had run into the young Pleasant Valley Township School District teacher again at a meeting of the Tri-City Bird Club in the fall of 1961. He had met her the previous spring while leading a field trip for Dr. Martin Grant's field zoology class at Iowa State Teachers' College.

In August of 1963, Peter, Mary Lou, and Terry Ingram traveled to Gainesville, Florida, for a meeting of the American Ornithologists' Union. There Peter introduced Mary Lou and Terry to his friend Chandler Robbins. The meeting was memorable, but not as memorable as the trip home. At this time the civil rights movement was gaining momentum and these three were obviously young and northern. In Birmingham, Alabama, a woman rear-ended the car while the young birders waited for a light to change. She backed up and did it again then roared away as the light changed. In Decatur, Alabama, a car full of young teenagers tried to run their car off the road. That was one time Peter's skilled and aggressive driving proved valuable. Terry Ingram quipped, "I am glad we didn't take my car. It has 'Land of Lincoln' on the plates".

Peter was an active member of the organizations to which he belonged. He was a life member of A.O.U., W.O.S., C.O.S., Association of Field Ornithologists, American Birding Association, Iowa Academy of Science, Illinois Audubon Society, Iowa Ornithologists' Union, Inland Bird Banding Association, South Dakota Ornithologists' Union and National Wildlife Federation. He went to 16 A.O.U. meetings, 15 Wilson Society meetings, and 2 Cooper Society meetings. He attended four international Ornithological Congress meetings. He attended every I.O.U. spring and fall meeting from 1958 through the spring of 1997. Peter's first published note in *Iowa Bird Life* was in 1953 when he was 16. He was President of the I.O.U. from 1960 until 1961 when he became editor of *Iowa Bird Life*. He remained editor for 25 years. He was President of Inland Bird Banding Association from 1988 until 1990 and attended 30 meetings. He was President of Illinois Audubon Society from 1972 until 1975. He was on the membership committee for American Birding Association. He was a member and the spring bird count editor for the Illinois Ornithological Society. He was President of the Quad-City Audubon Society, formerly the Tri-City Bird Club, from 1976 through 1977 and 1995 through 1996. He was a member of the Minnesota Ornithologists' Union and National Audubon Society. He was an active member of St. John's United Methodist Church and most recently was chair of the memorials committee. He was a member of the Davenport Exchange Club from 1976 through 1991 when it was disbanded. He was secretary-treasurer for the entire period.

In 1967 Peter and Mary Lou met Dennis Sheets in Montreal for the World's Fair. During that trip, Peter concocted a plan that Peter and Mary Lou would vacation in Brazil in 1969 and bird with Dennis who would be working there. The plans came to fruition and an excellent bird trip whetted Peter's appetite to bird the world, especially the tropics.

Peter went back to work at the Davenport Museum (now called the Putnam Museum) in 1971 and stayed until 1980 when he became staff ornithologist at the Deere-Wiman House in Moline. These jobs allowed Peter the flexibility to travel. Even when he opened Pete Petersen's Wild Bird Shop with Larry Linder in 1982, he was still able to take extended foreign trips. He visited 35 countries on all continents

except Antarctica. He traveled in every state of the United States. His life list stood at 3,669 species at his death. His U. S. and Canada list was 668 species.

Peter loved to count birds and compete against old records of numbers of species seen on a count. For Peter the best thing about Christmas was the Christmas Bird Counts. He participated in 242 of which 209 were national counts. He compiled 179, almost all for two states. From 1967 to 1997, Peter was Iowa coordinator for the United States Fish and Wildlife Service's Breeding Bird Survey. He conducted 133 surveys, one of the highest totals nationally. Peter with Don Moeller and Brian Blevins set the Iowa single day record of 204 species on 13 May 1996, and the Iowa county single day record of 187 species on 11 May 1996 with Brian Blevins. Brian and Cory Blevins are good bird watchers who often birded with their father and Peter. Peter was the boys' godfather.



*Figure 2. Peter C. Petersen with Del Blevins on a pelagic trip, North Carolina, May 1997.*

Peter worked on a number of important projects with the U. S. Army Corps of Engineers. He did a winter biological survey and habitat quality evaluation of the Crow Creek drainage basin of Scott County, Iowa. Peter worked with the corps and Augustana College on a study of potential flood proofing of the Moline portion of the Rock River Valley. He studied the effect of dredge material deposits on bottomland forest in pool 19 of the Mississippi River for the corps. He did bird surveys for Mid-American Energy Company on the Big Sand Mound Nature Preserve from 1982 through 1996. Peter worked on numerous other smaller projects for the U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service, Bettendorf Park Department, and the Department of the Army, Rock Island Arsenal.

Peter was an untiring volunteer who conducted many bird presentations to groups throughout the Quad-City area. From 1954 to 1997 he gave 2,920 presentations to approximately 82,000 people. Half of these presentations were to classes in elementary, middle, and senior high schools. One of Peter's cherished awards was the

service award presented by John Glenn School in Donahue, Iowa in 1991. Peter was told about two weeks before he died that the Iowa Science Teachers of the Iowa Academy of Science was awarding him the friend of science education award in 1997. This was presented to Peter posthumously on 23 October 1997. Peter was awarded the Dr. R. M. Strong Award for outstanding work in ornithology and conservation by the Illinois Audubon Society in 1972 and the outstanding service award in 1975. He received the Iowa Governor's Volunteer Award in 1993.

Peter wrote numerous articles for *Iowa Bird Life*, the *Meadowlark*, *Bird-Banding* and *Illinois Audubon Bulletin*. He wrote a monthly column in the *Quad-City Times* from May 1978 to May 1985. He was co-author of the 1984 edition of *Iowa Birds*. He was the author of *A Field List of Birds of the Quad-City Region*. He loved to do TV guest spots and interviews and did 55.

Peter was a positive influence on a number of people's lives. Three young boys who were to become excellent naturalists and/or ornithologists are mentioned here. The first young bird enthusiast to work with Peter was Jon Dunn. Jon has served as field identification editor for *Birding* and was a principal consultant to the National Geographic Society's *Field Guide to the Birds of North America*. The definitive work on North American wood warblers done with Kimball Garrett has just been published. When Jon was a youngster he flew from his home in California to Davenport to visit his maternal grandmother. These visits were timed to correspond to migration and when Peter would be running the nets. Another young man credits Peter with his interest in wildlife and ecology. This young man is Roderic Mast who is coordinating the Global Amphibian Campaign for Conservation International of which Rod is a vice-president. The third young man is Kelly McKay who was most like a son to Peter, and will step into many of the jobs left vacant by Peter's passing.

On 16 December 1997, Peter and Mary Lou learned that he had an inoperable malignant tumor on his right kidney, that it was in the surrounding lymph nodes, and that he might have a year to live. Peter and Mary Lou made a trip to Mayo Clinic in the first week of January where they were told that the cancer had spread to the liver and the lungs. Peter sold the Wild Bird Shop to his friend Del Blevins on 1 February 1997. He planned to do as much birding as possible and hoped for a good spring. He took a six-weeks series of biotherapy treatments. These are shots of interferon and interleukin 2. These treatments did a great deal of good and gave Peter a good May. Peter's last trip was to North Carolina 21-27 May 1997. This trip was made possible by the kind and loving care given by good friends: Ann Barker, Del, Cory and Brian Blevins, Don and Jean Moeller, and Dennis Sheets.

In June Peter once again took biotherapy treatments. The results were questionable. The reactions were much more difficult and intense: chills, fever spikes, nausea, and delirium. Throughout the last seven months of Peter's life he remained positive and stoic. He never cursed his fate or became hopeless in despair. On Sunday evening, 6 July 1997, Peter wanted to go out to McCausland to see another good friend, Gil Sandvick. Gill who had been battling cancer since 1994, was then in hospice care. The two friends enjoyed their visit and understood each other's plight fully. Peter enjoyed company and had many visitors through his last day.

Peter willed his personal library, field records, and banding records to Western Illinois University. Hopefully this material will prove useful and Peter will continue to instruct future generations. He is remembered in love.

235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, Iowa 52803



# THE PEABODY-BORDNER BIRD EGG AND NEST COLLECTION AT LUTHER COLLEGE'S HOSLETT MUSEUM OF NATURAL HISTORY

TEX A. SORDAHL AND JESSICA LEPPALUOTO

In a survey of bird egg collections in Iowa, Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985) identified eight collections in the state. The Luther College collection ranked fifth in size, with 275 sets. Subsequently this collection was designated as a memorial collection and the Iowa State University collection (which had been of undetermined size) was transferred to it. Incorporation of the Iowa State University collection more than doubled the Luther College collection's size, making it the third largest in Iowa. In this paper we describe the history and status of the Luther egg collection, and update the status of other egg collections in the state.

The Luther College egg collection is housed within the Department of Biology in the Hoslett Museum of Natural History. The Hoslett Museum was established in 1972 when the college's natural history collections were named for Sherman A. Hoslett, an Iowa mammalogist and Luther biology professor (1930, 1932-1962). Because a fire destroyed the college's natural history collections in 1942, most of the Hoslett Museum's specimens were acquired after that date. However, some of the private collections donated later include specimens that are much older, and this is especially true of the bird eggs, nests, and mounts. Currently the ornithological resources of the Hoslett Museum include about 650 study skins, 241 taxidermy mounts, 10 skeletons, 57 nests, and 1,524 eggs.

## HISTORY OF LUTHER COLLEGE'S BIRD EGG AND NEST COLLECTION

The Luther College egg collection is a venerable one, as indicated by this passage from the college's official history (Nelson 1961:113): "In *Kirketidende* for February 23, 1877, President Larsen acknowledged the receipt of a collection of 600 birds' eggs and mentioned at the same time that a number of other articles had been received to form the nucleus of a museum." [note: *Evangelisk Luthersk Kirketidende*, the Evangelical Lutheran Church Times, was the official publication of the organization that founded Luther College.] The egg collection thus marked the beginning of the "Luther College Museum," which in 1926 became the "Norwegian-American Historical Museum" and in 1964 the "Norwegian-American Museum" (today it is an independent museum called "Vesterheim, The Norwegian-American Museum"). Although the majority of these eggs did not survive to the present, this part of its history accounts for the presence of eggs of many Scandinavian species in the current collection.

The collection became much more substantial in 1981 when Rolf V. Craft (then Professor of Economics at Luther College) donated a private egg and nest collection that had been stored for years at his parents' home in Hudson, Iowa. This collection had originally been assembled by Putnam Burton Peabody, an Episcopalian minister and noted oologist (see Burt 1994), and Frances C. Bordner, an avid student of Iowa birds. Most of the nests in the current collection came from this donation. At that time Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985) estimated that 25% of the collection came from Scandinavian sources, 65% from the Craft donation, and the remaining 10% from



miscellaneous donors. The entire collection was designated as the P. B. Peabody - Frances C. Bordner Bird Egg and Nest Collection in 1985.

In 1994 the Iowa State University egg collection was transferred to Luther College. This more than doubled the size of the Peabody-Bordner Collection, adding about 360 sets and 840 eggs and bringing it to its current size as described below.

## DESCRIPTION OF THE PEABODY-BORDNER COLLECTION

The egg and nest collections are organized taxonomically, following the *Check-list of North American Birds* (A.O.U. 1983) and its supplements. The collection of 57 nests represents 38 species from 12 families and three orders. The most notable nest is one originally labeled as that of a Dusky Seaside Sparrow (*Ammodramus maritimus nigrescens*). Unfortunately there were no further data to help verify its identity, but its appearance is consistent with a nest of this extinct subspecies (Fig. 1).

The eggs are stored in cotton-lined clear plastic boxes with lids, which are arranged in specimen trays of metal museum cases (Fig. 2). This method protects them from dust, ultraviolet light, and mechanical damage. It is similar to the curation technique used in some larger collections (Sordahl personal observation, L. F. Kiff personal communication), including those at the Western Foundation of Vertebrate Zoology in



Fig. 1. (Above) Dusky Seaside Sparrow nest from the Peabody-Bordner Collection.

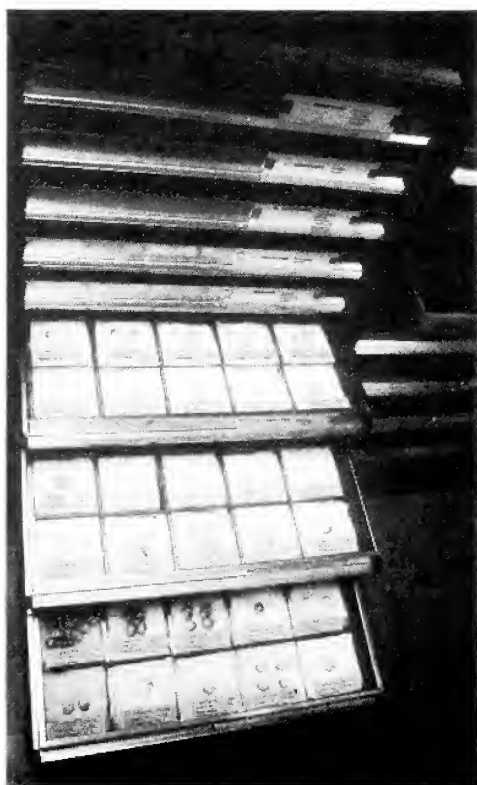


Fig. 2. (Right) Peabody-Bordner Collection storage trays.

Los Angeles, California and the Rob and Bessie Welder Wildlife Foundation in Sinton, Texas (ranked 1st and 27th, respectively, in size among North American collections; Kiff and Hough 1985). Each egg is labeled in museum-quality ink with an accession number for the collection and an A.O.U. number for the species (A.O.U. 1983:797-809). For species not included in the A.O.U. check-list, World List numbers (Sibley and Monroe 1990) are used. An abbreviated data card is included in the box with each egg set, and complete data are recorded in a card catalog. A future goal is to enter these data into an electronic database.

The Peabody-Bordner Collection currently contains 636 identified egg sets with 1,424 eggs. There are an additional 100 unidentified eggs, among which at least 10 sets can be distinguished. Of the identified eggs, 169 sets have complete data (date, location, collector), 74 sets have partial data (10 with date only, 14 with location only, 3 with collector only, 31 with date and location, 1 with date and collector, and 15 with location and collector), and 393 sets have no data other than species identification. Thus 38% (243/636) of the egg sets have at least partial data.

In addition to the basic date/location/collector data, other potentially valuable information is available for many of the egg sets. Nest descriptions and state of incubation were often recorded by the collectors. Interestingly, the host species is known for 23 of 26 sets of Brown-headed Cowbird (*Molothrus ater*) eggs, and 21 different species were parasitized!

Represented in the Peabody-Bordner egg collection are 285 species from 51 families and 19 orders. Eggs of 82 species were collected in Iowa, which represents 41% of the 198 bird species confirmed to have ever nested in Iowa (Kent and Dinsmore 1996).

Not surprisingly, most of the eggs were collected between 1870 and 1940 (Fig. 3), the heyday of oology when most North American collections were built (Kiff 1991). Legal restrictions now prohibit private egg collecting, and authorization is given to researchers only for special purposes. Of the 211 sets with dates in the Peabody-Bordner Collection, 176 (83%) were collected before 1900. Eggs collected in recent times are either from captive birds or from failed nests monitored by professional biologists during research projects.

The majority of the eggs probably came from Iowa. Of the 229 sets with locality information, 162 (71%) are from Iowa. The other 67 sets came from 21 additional states and two countries: Arkansas, California, Colorado, Connecticut, Georgia, Illinois, Indiana, Maine, Massachusetts, Michigan, Minnesota, New Jersey, New York, Ohio, Rhode Island, South Carolina, Tennessee, Utah, Virginia, Washington, Wyoming, Canada (Ontario), and England. In addition to these, we assume that a Kirtland's Warbler (*Dendroica kirtlandii*) egg came from Michigan and that 22 sets of eggs labeled with Norwegian common names came from Scandinavia. The presence of eggs of Great White Heron (*Ardea herodias occidentalis*), Limpkin (*Aramus guarauna*), Bridled Tern (*Sterna anaethetus*), Sooty Tern (*S. fuscata*), and Brown Noddy (*Anous stolidus*) indicates that a component of the collection came from Florida or the West Indies.

Fifty-nine different collectors were responsible for the 188 sets in the Peabody-Bordner Collection for which the collector was identified, and 26 different collectors were responsible for the sets known to be from Iowa. By far the most prolific contributors were Charles R. Keyes (an active early Iowa ornithologist, Kent and Dinsmore 1996:18), who collected 51 sets, and C. C. Smith, who collected 38 sets. Fifty and 36 of their sets, respectively, were collected in Iowa. The remaining

collectors were responsible for only one to a few sets each. Interestingly, the names P. B. Peabody and Frances C. Bordner do not appear as known collectors.

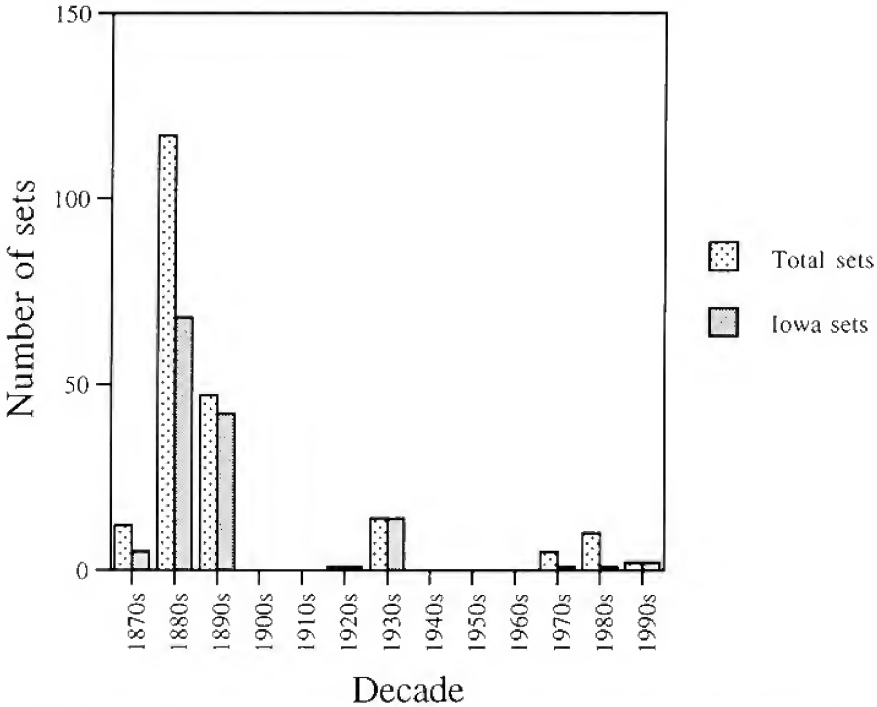


Fig. 3. The number of egg sets in the Peabody-Bordner Collection plotted according to their collection date ( $n = 211$ ).

Several egg sets in the Peabody-Bordner Collection are from species that are now rare. The rarest is a single egg of the extinct Passenger Pigeon (*Ectopistes migratorius*, Fig. 4). Unfortunately the data with it are incomplete. The date is lacking and the locality was recorded only as "central Iowa"; the collector was a "Mr. Frazier." Only 148 sets of Passenger Pigeon eggs are known from the 36 largest North American egg collections (Kiff and Hough 1985). The only other known eggs of this species in Iowa collections are at the Putnam Museum, which has two sets (J. A. Hall personal communication, Chamberlain and Sordahl 1985). At least six species from the federal endangered and threatened species list (U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service 1997) are represented: Wood Stork (*Mycteria americana*, 1 egg), Aplomado Falcon (*Falco femoralis*, 1 egg), Peregrine Falcon (*Falco peregrinus*, 8 eggs), Least Tern (*Sterna antillarum*, 2 sets), Roseate Tern (*Sterna dougallii*, 1 egg), and Kirtland's Warbler (1 egg). Of these only one set of Least Tern eggs and the peregrine eggs (which are failed eggs from captive birds) have data. Six species listed as endangered, two species listed as threatened, and two species listed as of special concern in Iowa (State of Iowa 1994) are represented in the Peabody-Bordner Collection. Those that are known to have been collected in Iowa are from the endangered Northern Harrier (*Circus cyaneus*, 1 set) and King Rail (*Rallus elegans*, 1 set), from the threatened Long-eared Owl (*Asio otus*, 2 sets), and from the special concern Forster's Tern (*Sterna forsteri*, 1 set) and Black Tern (*Chlidonias niger*, 2 sets).

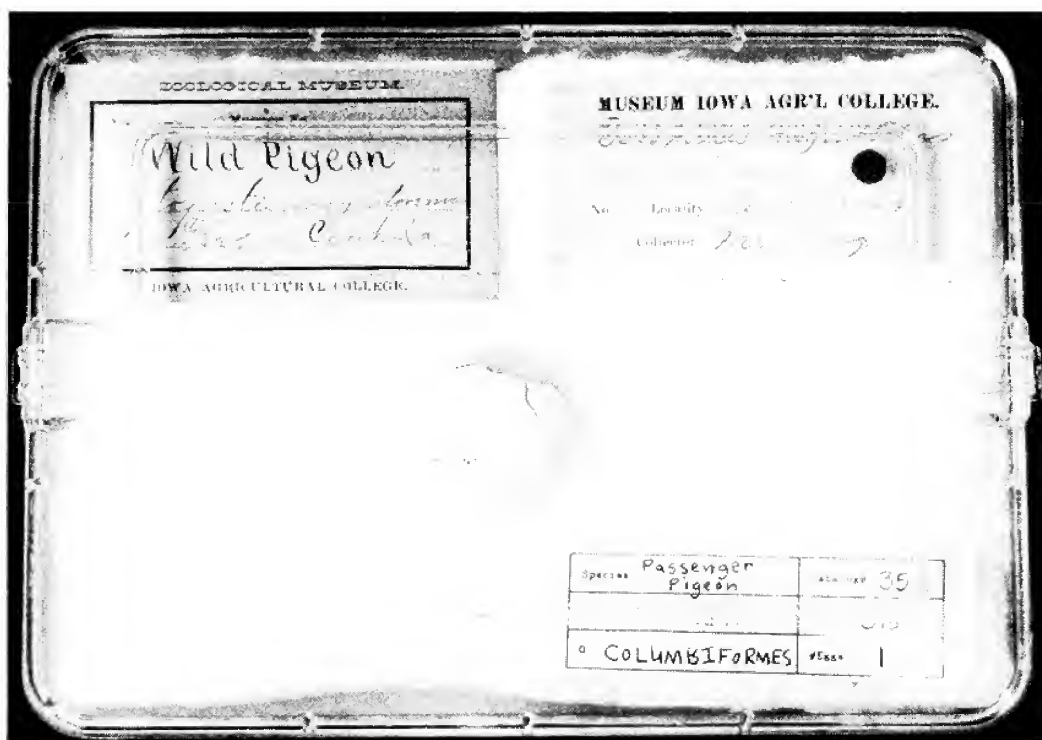


Fig. 4. Passenger Pigeon egg from the Peabody-Bordner Collection.

## IOWA EGG COLLECTIONS

Of the eight Iowa egg collections listed by Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985), the collections at Ellsworth Community College (Iowa Falls) and at the Wayne County Historical Museum (Corydon) had no sets with data, and the Iowa State University collection has been incorporated into the Peabody-Bordner Collection at Luther College. We contacted the institutions holding the other four known egg collections in an attempt to provide an update on their status and to clarify discrepancies between literature sources that mention these collections. Our results are summarized in Table 1.

Three Iowa collections (University of Iowa, Coe College, and Putnam Museum) have often been mentioned in surveys of North American or state egg collections. The University of Iowa collection was reported by Kiff and Hough (1985) to have 1,000 egg sets and by Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985) to have 1,500 egg sets. The larger estimate is more likely to be accurate (G. D. Schrimper personal communication). The Coe College collection has consistently been reported to have 400 egg sets (Banks et al. 1973, Kiff 1979, Dinsmore et al. 1984, Chamberlain and Sordahl 1985, Kiff and Hough 1985, Kent and Dinsmore 1996), a number that probably originated from an estimate made by Karl E. Goellner (former Professor of Biology at Coe). The Putnam Museum collection was reported by Kiff and Hough (1985) to have 341 egg sets with data, ranking it 66th in size among North American egg collections. This agrees well with Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985), who reported 358 sets with data for Putnam. An inventory list supplied by the museum to Chamberlain and Sordahl yielded a total of 804 documented sets, including those lacking data. However, other sources have listed Putnam Museum as having 1,500

sets (Banks et al. 1973, Dinsmore et al. 1984, Kent and Dinsmore 1996), or 1,580 sets (Kiff 1979). The museum staff believe these larger numbers are more likely to be accurate and that they probably originated from an estimate made by Peter C. Petersen, a former curator at the Putnam Museum (S. D. Hinz personal communication).

**Table 1.** Status of bird egg collections in Iowa, ranked by size.

Institution (Curator)	Egg Sets	Sets with Data	Sets from Iowa	Eggs	Species
University of Iowa Museum of Natural History Iowa City, IA 52242 (George D. Schrimper)	est. 1,500	est. 1,200	est. 240	est. 4,000	est. 250
Putnam Museum 1717 W. 12th Street Davenport, IA 52804 (Sally D. Hinz)	804 (est. 1,500)	358	?	2,326	289
Luther College Hoslett Museum of Natural History Decorah, IA 52101 (Tex A. Sordahl)	636	243	162	1,424	285
Coe College Dept. of Biology Cedar Rapids, IA 52402 (Harlow H. Hadow)	est. 400	?	?	?	?
Univ. of Northern Iowa UNI Museum Cedar Falls, IA 50614 (Terry Vidal)	159	25	?	530	77

At present, the Luther College collection is the only one of the five Iowa egg collections that has been thoroughly inventoried. For three of the collections (University of Iowa, Coe College, and University of Northern Iowa) the best information available continues to be that given by Chamberlain and Sordahl (1985), but the fourth collection (Putnam Museum) may be significantly larger than they reported (personal communications from the collection curators listed in Table 1). Egg collections in Iowa can be estimated to contain perhaps 4,000 sets with 8,700 eggs (Table 1). They represent a valuable resource for many kinds of investigations (Kiff 1991).

## ACKNOWLEDGMENTS

We thank Erick Chamberlain, Amy Sproston, and Jenna Gavle for help in curating the Peabody-Bordner Collection, and Tom Cottrell for comments on the manuscript. Lloyd Kiff provided valuable advice on curating bird egg collections. Rolf Craft donated the original Peabody-Bordner collection and Jim Dinsmore facilitated the donation of the Iowa State University collection; without them we would have had nothing to write about. We are grateful to Jean Bordner Braley and Francis M. Braley for providing information, and for support of the Peabody-Bordner Collection and the Hoslett Museum. We also thank the curators of the other Iowa bird egg collections listed in Table 1 who responded to our inquiries.

## LITERATURE CITED

- American Ornithologists' Union. 1983. *Check-list of North American birds*, 6th ed. American Ornithologists' Union, Washington, DC.
- Banks, R. C., M. H. Clench, and J. C. Barlow. 1973. Bird collections in the United States and Canada. *Auk* 90:136-170.
- Burt, W. 1994. *Shadowbirds: A Quest for Rails*. Lyons & Burford, New York, NY.
- Chamberlain, E. M. and T. A. Sordahl. 1985. A survey of bird egg collections in Iowa. *Iowa Bird Life* 55:52-55.
- Dinsmore, J. J., T. H. Kent, D. Koenig, P. C. Petersen, and D. M. Roosa. 1984. *Iowa Birds*. Iowa State University Press, Ames.
- Kent, T. H. and J. J. Dinsmore. 1996. *Birds in Iowa*. Thomas H. Kent and James J. Dinsmore, Iowa City and Ames.
- Kiff, L. 1991. The egg came first. *Terra* 30(2):5-19.
- Kiff, L. F. 1979. Bird egg collections in North America. *Auk* 96:746-755.
- Kiff, L. F. and D. J. Hough. 1985. *Inventory of Bird Egg Collections, 1985*. American Ornithologists' Union and Oklahoma Biological Survey, Norman, Oklahoma.
- Nelson, D. T. 1961. *Luther College: 1861-1961*. Luther College Press, Decorah, IA.
- State of Iowa. 1994. Endangered and threatened plant and animal species. *Iowa Administrative Code*, section 571, chapter 77, pages 1-13.
- U. S. Fish and Wildlife Service. 1997. *Endangered Species Home Page--U. S. Listed Birds*. <<http://www.fws.gov/~r9endspp/vertdata.html#Birds>> (3 December 1997).

*Department of Biology, Luther College, Decorah, IA 52101-1045*

# MEET AN IOWA ORNITHOLOGIST:

## STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

HANK ZALETEL

I think that just about anyone who has been a member of the Iowa Ornithologists' Union (IOU) for any period of time, has a story about Steve Dinsmore. These two examples come readily to my mind.

I'll never forget that September afternoon in 1984 when Steve appeared at my front door in Colo covered from the waist down in mud to report that he had found a juvenile Red Knot at Hendrickson Marsh. I was urged to get on the stick and get to the marsh.

Or, the Easter Sunday morning in 1984, when 20 minutes before church was to begin, Steve again appeared at my front door to report that Smith's Longspurs were west of Colo, easily to be seen along the highway. Dressed in my Easter finest, I hopped into Steve's car only to find that the birds had moved inland. Tromping into the field of slush and mud, I attempted to see the birds that managed to keep 50-75 yards ahead of us. As the start of church rapidly approached, I realized that my pants and shoes were covered with mud. Needless to say, my wife was very unhappy with both Steve and I. I never did get a good look at the birds.

Matt Kenne wrote of Steve in a letter to the editor of *Iowa Bird Life* in 1989. Writing about field reports, he stated that he would get a "little burst of pride when I see my initials ahead of Steve Dinsmores occasionally (does he ever take time off to sleep?)."

Matt's quips refer to, of course, the notes and field report sections of *Iowa Bird Life* which frequently speak eloquently of Steve's field prowess.

Steve was born 7 May 1967 in Madison, Wisconsin. His family moved to Ames in August of 1975 when his father Jim accepted a position as ornithology professor at Iowa State University. While in high school, Steve became an avid hunter and fisherman and in sports was a distance freestyler in swimming. He graduated from Ames High School in 1985.

Steve's earliest birding experience was that of going birdbanding with his father on the Florida coast in the early 1970s. His first bird records date from 1978. He chased his first birds in 1983 and started taking serious notes in 1984. His first organized trips with others were Ames Audubon's Christmas Bird Counts. From 1984 to 1991, to relieve stress during finals, Steve took part in big day counts. His one



Fig. 1. Steve Dinsmore with young Black-crowned Night-Heron, Hottes Lake, 5 August 1978.



day state total was 182. A county big day with Ross Silcock, B. J. Rose, and Doug Rose in Fremont County on 11 May 1991 netted 169 species.

Steve decided to go to Iowa State University because it was cheap, he could live at home, and the university had a good program. While in high school and college, he favored biology and math courses. In December of 1990, he graduated with a B.S. in Fisheries and Wildlife Biology.

In August 1991, Steve began working on a M.S. at North Carolina State University at Raleigh. His research dealt with population dynamics and turnover rate of Sanderlings on the Outer Banks of North Carolina. Portions of this work are in press for the *Wilson Bulletin*. He graduated in December of 1994 with a degree in zoology.

Steve was in North Carolina for about three and a half years. His state list stands at 372. This puts him in the top ten of North Carolina listers. In 1993, he had a big year in which he saw 338 species breaking the previous record of 327. He attributes this record to his research on the Outer Banks which was bird rich. He added two birds to the state list: California Gull and Snowy Plover.

While he was there, Steve took more than 40 pelagic trips. He got to know Brian Patteson an organizer of these trips who then invited Steve to participate as a leader. Steve met many of North America's famous "tickers" on these trips.

By May 1994, Steve was practically finished with his research. He contracted with the Iowa Department of Natural Resources to co-author the Iowa Wildlife Viewing Guide which he finished up in the spring of 1995. The book was published in the fall of that year. He also wrote a number of species accounts for the *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* and is one of the authors of that book.

During the summer of 1995 the National Biological Service (NBS) hired Steve to monitor Mountain Plover productivity in Montana. All the while he was working on funding for graduate school but nothing materialized. During the fall and winter of 1995 he lived in Ames and worked for an air quality testing company. His job sometimes entailed climbing 300-foot tall smoke stacks to check emissions. Typical of Steve, he took his binoculars with him and often saw migrating raptors or other birds.

During the summer of 1996 he contracted with NBS for a second summer of work on Mountain Plovers. During the fall of 1996 he got some bites on funding for his PhD. Finally, in February of 1997, he learned that he had been accepted at Colorado State University at Fort Collins. His program would begin in August and all of the research that he had done on Mountain Plovers in the previous summers would be applicable to his degree. This summer he again worked in Montana, and he figures that he has an additional two summers of field research left plus two years of data analysis and thesis writing.

I asked him what he would like to do when he gets done. He said that there were several possibilities. The first would entail teaching and doing research at a university and the second possibility would be that of a researcher working for the Fish and Wildlife Service or similar type of government agency.

Steve's record of species that he has added to the Iowa state list is impressive: Neotropical Cormorant, Snowy Plover, Red Phalarope, Pomarine Jaeger, Black-headed Gull, Little Gull, Ivory Gull, and Marbled Murrelet. He is currently fourth on the list of Iowa tickers with 345. His Polk County list stands at 304.

For several years, Steve was the compiler for the Ames Christmas Bird Count. In 1988, he began the Saylorville Count and has organized the count every year since. In 1990, the count recorded 92 species, the highest count total ever for Iowa.

Steve has always enjoyed writing and working with bird records. In 1994, he approached the Des Moines Audubon Society about doing an update of the Birds of Polk County which was last done in 1973. The book focuses on the last 20 years and includes seasonal abundance, breeding and historical status, early and late dates. Bibliographic references are included as well as short descriptions of the primary birding areas. Three hundred copies were printed and received from the printer in January of 1995.

Steve approached me during the summer of 1995 about doing a similar book on Story County birds. Serious work did not really begin on this project until March of 1996. I never seemed to have enough time or energy to keep up with Steve. However, we finished the work in early May. The book is similar in style and appearance to the Polk County book. Three hundred copies were printed. All but one or two copies have been sold. Steve and I are talking about a revision in several years. A reprint of 100-150 copies of the last edition is now likely.

Steve and I have taken three major birding trips, one to southern Arizona, pelagic trips off North Carolina, and a winter sojourn to Duluth. On each of these trips memorable moments abound. On the Arizona trip, we saw all of the target birds after just three days. On the pelagic trip off North Carolina, half of the people got seasick. Finally, on the Duluth trip, the Great Gray Owls we found were eclipsed by the birds that appeared in Iowa that same weekend.



*Fig. 2. (Left to right) Brian Warson, Jim Sinclair, and Steve Dinsmore on Portsmouth Island, North Carolina in 1993. The rain gear is to protect them from flies.*

In closing, in typical fashion, Steve returned to Iowa from Colorado this August. After only 15 minutes back in the state he discovered the Roseate Spoonbill that was seen by many. Let's hope that when Steve graduates, he'll be able to find an appropriate job here and continue to contribute to his record of achievement in Iowa ornithology.

*1928 6th Street, Nevada, IA 50201*

# FIELD REPORTS--SUMMER 1997

JAMES J. DINSMORE

## WEATHER

June started out fairly cool and stayed that way until the last third of the month when temperatures were much warmer. It reached 100 degrees in Logan on 19 June and at several southwestern Iowa towns on 25 and 26 July, the first 100 degree days in Iowa since July 1995. Overall, temperatures averaged 71.2 degrees, one degree above normal. Statewide, rainfall averaged 4.3 inches, slightly below average.

July started out fairly cool but the month ended with a number of fairly typical July days with temperatures in the 90s. The low was 43 in Fayette on 7 July and the high was 100 in Sidney, Lamoni, and Leon in late July. Overall, the month averaged 74 degrees, half a degree below the long-term average. July was quite dry with a statewide rainfall average of 2.7 inches, 1.4 inches below normal.



## HABITAT CONDITIONS

Other than the lower-than-normal rainfall and the lack of good shorebird habitat in some parts of the state, there was little to distinguish the habitat conditions this year. Wetlands in northwestern Iowa were in good condition through June but some dried out by the end of the period, not an unusual situation and generally not a problem for most birds. The massive emergence of 17-year cicadas in June in central and southern Iowa provided an unexpected source of food for some birds. With Mississippi Kites known to be fond of cicadas, I wonder if that may help account for their presence at several new sites in central Iowa? Perhaps birders should take time to take a last look at the CRP lands in northern Iowa before they disappear. Although the program has been renewed, the evaluation system that is being used to sign up lands for new contracts does not favor land in northern Iowa. Unless there is a change in the way those rules are applied, much of the land now in CRP in northern Iowa will disappear while southern Iowa may gain additional land in the program. It was fun while it lasted.

## UNUSUAL SPECIES

Three Accidental species, Snowy Plover, Black-headed Gull, and Black-billed Magpie were reported, more than most summers. Casual species reported were Laughing Gull and Sabine's Gull. Other unusual species for the season included Bufflehead, Mississippi Kite at four sites, Marbled Godwit, Bonaparte's Gull, Scissor-tailed Flycatcher, and Red Crossbill while a Prairie Warbler was found at a new site.

In the nesting category, the best find was Iowa's first Black-billed Magpie nesting report in 59 years but Iowa's second nesting report of Mississippi Kite was also a great find. Other good finds were new county nesting records for Pied-billed Grebe,

Hooded Merganser, Turkey Vulture, Sandhill Crane, American Woodcock, Pileated Woodpecker, Blue-gray Gnatcatcher, Veery, Yellow-headed Blackbird, and Great-tailed Grackle. A Gadwall brood and evidence of Worm-eated Warbler nesting, although not new county nesting records, were some of the few recent nesting records for those species. Piping Plovers and Least Terns had great nesting seasons at Port Neal near Sioux City while success at Council Bluffs was poor at best. The presence of Northern Harriers, Short-eared Owls, and Henslow's Sparrows in Ringgold County and the possibility that some of that land may become publicly owned is more good news. Bald Eagles continued to add new nest sites and expand their range. The return of Barn Owls to Zelbert Freemyers farm in Taylor County was also welcome news. On the disturbing side was the lack of any reports of Bewick's Wren and disturbingly few indications of nesting by species like American Bittern, Broad-winged Hawk, Swainson's Hawk, Black Tern, and Forster's Tern.

As expected, with the late spring, there were a number of spring migrants that lingered into early June. I received June reports of eight warbler, four flycatcher, two thrush, and one vireo species that are normally migrants. However, many of the warblers seemed to move north after 1 June. John Van Dyk hit the bonanza on thrushes with three species of migrant thrushes lingering in his yard into early June.

Gulls made an unusually strong showing with seven species reported, more species than the composite total reported in the previous 13 summer field reports I have written. That total would have been a good total for a fall a few years ago and easily exceeds the usual three or four species found most summers.

## SPECIES DATA

\* = documented; [ ] = record date

**Common Loon:** All: singles at Big Creek L. in early Jun and 16, 20 Jul (Tim Hanks, Malia Schepers, Bruce Munson Jon Bahrenfus fide JJD), Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. on 4 Jun (DK), Welch L. in Dickinson Co. on 16 Jul (MPR), and 2 on Spirit L. on 26 Jul (ETH).

**Pied-billed Grebe:** I received reports of nests or broods from Clay, Dickinson, Fremont, and Sioux counties (MPR, JV), the latter a new county record.

**Western Grebe:** All: 1 at Little Spirit L. on 30 Jun (JJD), 2 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 9 Jul (RGo), and 2 at Trumbull L. in Clay Co. on 29 Jul (LAS).

**American White Pelican:** The largest concentrations were 140-160 at Big Wall L. on 15, 23, Jul (MPR, BPr, HZ), 66 at Coralville Res. on 21 Jul (OLD), and ca. 60 at Mud L. in Palo Alto Co. on 2 Jul (JJD). From 1 to 22 were seen in Appanoose, Benton, Calhoun, Dickinson, Fremont, and Polk counties (RLC, MPR, MCK, JJo, JV, BE).

**Double-crested Cormorant:** Most: 30 at Coralville Res on 29 Jul (THK) where 5 nests were seen (THK, DLD). From 1 to 17 were reported in Dickinson, Fremont, Kossuth, Palo Alto, Polk, Story, Winnebago, and Wright counties (JJD, JV, BKP, LJP, MCK, BE, HZ, Pr, LPr, DeC).

**American Bittern:** All: 1 on 5 Jun at Camp Dodge in Polk Co. (JSc).

**Least Bittern:** 1 or 2 were seen in Boone, Fremont, and Madison counties (JES, JLF, AMJ, BKP, LJP, MPR, PHA, RIA).

**Great Blue Heron:** Besides 55 nests along the Middle R. in Warren Co. (JSi), small colonies were active near Granger in Dallas Co. (BE), near Manti P. in Fremont Co. (MT, JB), and east of Nevada (Steve Lekwa fide HZ). The only large post-breeding concentration reported was 123 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 30 Jul (MCK).

**Great Egret:** Most: 14 at Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP).

**Snowy Egret:** All: 1 at Waubonsie W.A. in Fremont Co. on 23 Jun (MPR, BPr) and 23 Jul (BKP, LJP) and 1 near Glidden in Carroll Co. on 29 Jul (RTh).

**Little Blue Heron:** All: Up to 6 (4 adults, 1 imm, 1 calico) at Waubonsie W.A. on 6 Jul (AMJ) and 1 imm. at Trickle Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 27 Jul (ETH).

**Cattle Egret:** All: 2 at Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Jun (MPR, BPr), 11 there on 9 Jul (JLF), and 13 there on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP).

- Black-crowned Night-Heron:** The only reports of nesting were 1 nest at Eagle L. in Hancock Co. on 10 Jun (Steve Cordts fide JJD) and at least 4 nests at Grover's L. in June (NBe). The only other report was 2 at DU Marsh in Clay Co. on 29 Jul (MCK).
- Yellow-crowned Night-Heron:** All: 1 2nd year bird in Warren Co. on 1 Jun (JSi).
- Trumpeter Swan:** Semi-wild pairs produced broods of 6 near Ames and 5 near Webster City (BEh), indicating some success for the reintroduction program.
- Mute Swan:** All: 2 seen flying over Marshalltown in early June (Mike Stegmann fide MPr).
- Snow Goose:** From 1 to 4 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Fremont, Hamilton, Polk, Sioux, and Story counties (RLC, JES, AMJ, HZ, BE, DT, JV).
- Green-winged Teal:** All: A male at Harrier M. in Boone Co. on 14 Jun (JJD) and 3 males at Gordon's M. in Hamilton Co. on 17 Jun (JSc).
- Northern Pintail:** All: A male near Lake Park in Dickinson Co. on 3 Jul (JJD).
- Blue-winged Teal:** There were numerous broods in the Great Lakes region in late June and at Harrier M. (JJD).
- Northern Shoveler:** All: 1 summered at Terra L. in Johnston (BE), 2 males were at Union Slough N.W.R. on 26 Jun (MCK), 2 males were near Lake Park on 3 Jul (JJD), and a pair was at Mill Creek S.P. in O'Brien Co. on 19 Jul (DK).
- Gadwall:** Surprisingly, this was the third most commonly reported dabbling after Mallard and Blue-winged Teal with 1 or 2 seen in Boone, Dickinson, Kossuth, and Polk counties (JJD, LAS, MCK, BE). The most was 14 found on Spring Run W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 2 Jul (JJD) and 4 Jul (LAS), on the latter day accompanied by a brood. North American Gadwall breeding populations have tripled in 10 years, perhaps accounting for the increased number seen in Iowa.
- Canvasback:** All: 2 near Montrose in Lee Co. on 1 Jun (PHA, RIA) and a female near Primghar in O'Brien Co. on 18 Jul (DK).
- Redhead:** All: 4 at Grover's L. on 28 Jun, a pair at Jemmerman Sl. on 30 Jun, and 2 pairs at Spring Run W.A. on 2 Jul (JJD).
- Ring-necked Duck:** All: a pair and 1 male at Harrier M. through 10 Jun dwindled to a pair on 14 Jun and finally just a male which remained through July (JJD).
- Lesser Scaup:** From 1 to 5 were seen Dickinson, Kossuth, Osceola, and Sioux counties (JJD, MCK, JV).
- Bufflehead:** A female at Harrier M. on 10, 11 Jun (JSc, SFA, details) is Iowa's third summer record.
- Hooded Merganser:** Broods at Dog Creek P. in O'Brien Co. on 5 Jun (DK), and at Sunken Grove L. in Pocahontas Co. on 29 Jun (MCK) are new county nesting records. The only others reported were a brood at South Twin L. in Calhoun Co. on 21 Jun (PE), and 2 females each at Green Island W.A. in Jackson Co. on 9 Jun (MPr, BPr) and at Camp Dodge on 26 Jun (JJD), and a female near Crystal L. in Fremont Co. on 27 Jul (BKP, LJP).
- Common Merganser:** All: A male at the power plant ponds near Council Bluffs on 8 Jun (ETh).
- Ruddy Duck:** 30 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Jun (MCK) were late migrants. Other reports were of 1 or 2 in Boone, Dickinson, Fremont, Kossuth, Linn, Pocahontas, Polk, and Winneshiek counties (HZ, JJD, BKP, LJP, MCK, DLD, BE, DeC).
- Turkey Vulture:** A nest with 1 young near Sutherland in O'Brien Co. on 17 Jun (DK) is a new county record.
- Osprey:** The Macbride Raptor Project and the Iowa DNR began a program to establish nesting Ospreys in Iowa in mid July by holding 4 young birds obtained from Wisconsin at Coralville Res. (BEh). They will be released later this summer. Singles were at Lizard L. in Pocahontas Co. on 15 Jul (MPr), Trickle Sl. on 29 Jul (ETh), and Coralville Res on 30 Jul (JLF).
- Mississippi Kite:** This was a banner year for this species. One or 2 were seen repeatedly in Des Moines from 8 Jun to 31 Jul (PJW), 1 or 2 were at Ledges S.P. from 8 Jun to 10 Jul (JJD, MPr, BPr, RTh, JLF), 1 was at Voas A. in Dallas Co. on 14 Jun (PJW), and 2 were at L. Ahquabi on 29 Jun (JSi). The birds at Ledges built a nest in early Jul but it blew down about 13 Jul (Jan Wiggers fide PJW). This is the second nest record for Iowa.
- Bald Eagle:** 59 nests in 23 counties were known to be active this year, the most ever reported in Iowa. Of those, 40 were successful and fledged at least 57 young (BEh).
- Northern Harrier:** The only nest reported, near Bedford in Taylor Co., was not successful (BEh). Three or 4 pairs were thought to be present in Ringgold Co. (PMe), and I learned that several recently fledged young was seen there in summer 1996 (Mel Moe fide JJD). One or 2 were seen in Buena Vista, Dickinson (several sites), and Howard counties (DK, NBe, JJo, LAS, ETh, DeC).
- Cooper's Hawk:** Singles were reported from along the Iowa R. in Hardin Co. (MPr, near Maquoketa in Jackson Co. (MPr, BPr), Dallas Co. (MPr, BPr), L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. (DeC), and Decorah (DeC). A nest near Mason City fledged 4 young (CJF) while one in Ames had been deserted in early June (JJD). I received a belated report of a nest this spring near Sperry in Des Moines Co. (Bill Ohde fide JJD).

- Red-shouldered Hawk:** 1 at Dudgeon L. in Benton Co. on 1 Jun (MPr, BPr) was the only report.
- Broad-winged Hawk:** All: 3 at Ledges S.P. on 27 Jun (RTh), from 1 to 4 in Des Moines from 7 to 22 Jun (PJW), and singles at Waubonsie S.P. on 23 Jun (MPr) and north of Iowa City on 21 Jun, 2, 23 Jul (JLF).
- Swainson's Hawk:** All: 2 south of Algona on 14 Jun (MCK) and singles at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 9 Jun (CJF), Mason City on 18 Jun (CJF), 24 Jul (RGo), and near Melvin in Osceola Co. on 31 Jul (JV).
- Peregrine Falcon:** A pair in Cedar Rapids fledged 2 young but the pair in Des Moines was not successful this year (BEH).
- Gray Partridge:** From 1 to 4 were reported in Cerro Gordo, Hancock, Ida, and Palo Alto counties (RGo, JJD, PE, MPr).
- Greater Prairie-Chicken:** Several broods were reported from near Kellerton and one from near the Ringgold W.A., both in Ringgold Co. (Mel Moe fide JJD).
- Northern Bobwhite:** Singles at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 21 Jun (PHA, RIA) and at Sioux Center on 26 Jul (JV) were on the edge of this species' usual range.
- King Rail:** 1 near the Waubonsie W.A. on 23 Jun, 2, 6, 9-10 Jul (MPr-details, BPr, PHA, RIA-photo, BKP, LJP, AMJ, JLF) was the only report.
- Virginia Rail:** All: 1 at Camp Dodge in Polk Co. on 5, 26 Jun (JJD, JSc), 3 at Zirbel Sl. in Cerro Gordo Co. on 7 Jul (RGo), and 2 at Silver L. in Worth Co. on 8 Jul (RGo).
- Sora:** All: Singles at Camp Dodge on 5, 26 Jun (JSc, JJD) and Errington M. in Polk Co. on 22 Jun (BE).
- Common Moorhen:** All: 1 at Blue L. in Monona Co. on 17 Jun (PE), 2 or 3 at Forney L. on 4, 6, 9-10 Jul (BKP, LJP, AMJ, JLF).
- American Coot:** The only broods reported were near Waubonsie W.A. (MPr, BPr, BKP, LJP), Grover's L. (ETH), and Elk L. in Clay Co. (MPr).
- Sandhill Crane:** Pairs at Otter Creek M. in Tama Co., Green Island W.A. in Jackson Co., and Goose L. in Clinton Co., each had single young (BEH). The latter is a new county nesting record. At Sweet M. in Bremer Co., cranes nested for the third successive year (2 young this year, 1 in 1996, and 2 in 1995, D. Siefken fide JJD). I received a late report of 2 at Pleasant Creek S.P. in Linn Co. on 30 May (B. Gudenkauf fide JJD).
- Black-bellied Plover:** All: 1 at Black Hawk W.A. in Sac Co. on 7 Jun (PE) and 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 18 Jun (MCK, details). The latter is one of the few midsummer records.
- American Golden-Plover:** All: Singles at Union Slough N.W.R. on 1 Jun (MCK), Dugout Creek W.A. in Dickinson Co. on 3 Jun (ETH), Dunbar Sl. on 20 Jun (RTh), and near Black Hawk L. on 21, 22 Jun (PHA, RIA, PJW, ETH) is more than most summers.
- Snowy Plover:** 1 near Black Hawk L. on 14, 15 Jun (\*PHA, RIA-photos, \*PE) is the first summer record and only the 7th overall.
- Semipalmated Plover:** Last: 2 on 14 Jun in Appanoose Co. (RLC)[ties 3rd latest]. First: 6 at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP).
- Piping Plover:** 3 pairs were at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 23, 24 Jun (JJD) and 2 young were there on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP). At Port Neal near Sioux City, there were 14 adults, 14 juveniles, and 2 nests on 14 Jun. At least 20 young were fledged there (BFH), the best year on record.
- American Avocet:** 1 on 20 Jul at Saylorville Res. (DT) was the only report.
- Greater Yellowlegs:** 1 at Burns Prairie in Palo Alto Co. on 12 Jun (SFa) could have been north or southbound. Four in Sac Co. on 9 Jul (PE) were the first clearly southbound birds.
- Lesser Yellowlegs:** 1 near Black Hawk L. on 22 Jun (ETH) and 3 there on 28 Jun (JJD) were the first fall migrants.
- Solitary Sandpiper:** 1 at Shimon M. in Pocahontas Co. on 29 Jun (MCK) and 1 near Delaware in Delaware Co. on 8 Jul (MPr) were the first fall migrants.
- Willet:** All: 1 at Harrier M. on 4 Jun (JSc)[2nd latest] and 2 at Mill Creek S.P. on 25 Jul (Jim Huber fide DK).
- Upland Sandpiper:** From 1 to 7 were found in Appanoose, Carroll, Dallas, Dickinson (2 nests), Emmet, Fremont, Jasper, O'Brien, Osceola, Palo Alto, Pocahontas, Ringgold, and Sioux counties (RLC, RTh, NBe, JJD, ETH, JV, MPr, DK, PJW, PMe).
- Marbled Godwit:** 3 near Jemmerston Sl. in Dickinson Co. on 21 Jun (PHA, RIA, details) [2nd earliest] were very early migrants.
- Sanderling:** All: 3 on Spirit L. on 20 Jul (ETH) and 9 at Dunbar Sl. in Greene Co. on 29 Jul (RTh).
- Semipalmated Sandpiper:** 1 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Jun (RLC) was a puzzling mid-summer report while 1 at Port Neal on 22 Jun was thought to be southbound (BFH). The 20 at Port Neal on 21 Jul (BFH) was the most reported, a low total compared to recent years.



**Least Sandpiper:** First: 10 on 6 Jul at Port Neal (BFH). Most: 25 at Hawarden on 11 Jul (JV) and 25 at Port Neal on 21 Jul (BFH).

**White-rumped Sandpiper:** All: 3 at Norwalk in Warren Co. on 1 Jun (JSi), 3 in Appanoose Co. on 14 Jun (RLC) and 1 at Union Slough N.W.R. on 18 Jun (MCK).

**Baird's Sandpiper:** All: 1 in Pottawattamie Co. on 6 Jul (AMJ-details)[2nd earliest].

**Pectoral Sandpiper:** First: 1 on 7 Jul at Saylorville Res. (DT). Most: 24 near Lake Park on 26 Jul (PJW).

**Dunlin:** All: 2 at Saylorville Res. on 8 Jun (BE).

**Stilt Sandpiper:** First: 3 at Colo Ponds on 13 Jul (HZ). Most: 16 at Port Neal on 21 Jul (BFH).

**Buff-breasted Sandpiper:** All: 1 near Dunbar Sl. on 27 Jul (PHA, RIA) and 2 there on 29 Jul (RTh).

**Short-billed Dowitcher:** First and most: 7 in Sac Co. on 7 Jul (PE).

**American Woodcock:** A brood at Broken Kettle Prairie in Plymouth Co. (RRe) is a new county nesting record.

**Laughing Gull:** A second-summer bird was near Black Hawk L. on 16, 18 Jun (\*RTh, \*PE, \*BFH).

**Franklin's Gull:** All: 5 near Black Hawk L. on 18 Jun (JJD, PE), 100 in the Kettleson W.P.A. area on 4 Jul (LAS), 1 at the power plant ponds in Pottawattamie Co. on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP), and 70 near Lake Park on 26 Jul (PJW).

**Black-headed Gull:** An adult was seen at Kettleson W.P.A./Jemmerson Sl. area on 20 Jun, 1, 4, 8, 16 Jul (ETh-details, \*MPR, LAS, JJD), the third year out of four that one has been seen in the area.

**Bonaparte's Gull:** 1 in first-alternate plumage at Kettleson W.P.A. on 17 Jun (ETh) is one of the few recent summer reports.

**Ring-billed Gull:** The colony at Meinking W.A. in Dickinson Co. was wiped out in early June, apparently by predators (SFa). Other concentrations included 82 at Saylorville Res. on 22 Jun (BE), 27 near Black Hawk L. on 18 Jun (JJD), and 20 at L. Rathbun on 6 Jun (RLC).

**Herring Gull:** An adult at Saylorville Res. on 8 Jun (BE) was the only report.

**Sabine's Gull:** 1 in first-alternate plumage at Kettleson W.P.A. on 8 Jul (\*LAS) is Iowa's first-ever summer report.

**Caspian Tern:** From 1 to 8 were seen in Appanoose, Clay, Dickinson, Polk, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (RLC, MPr, JJD, ETh, JV, BE, DT, DeC, BFH), more than in most summers.

**Forster's Tern:** In early June, about 125 birds and at least 3 nests were at Grover's L. (NBe), the only indication of nesting. From 1 to 37 were reported in Dickinson, Lee, Polk, Pottawattamie, Van Buren, and Woodbury counties (NBe, JJD, PJW, CE, BE, DT, BKP, LJP, MPr, BFH), mostly in July, and presumably mostly post-breeding birds.

**Least Tern:** The colony at Port Neal had 7 nests and 14 adults on 14 Jun and fledged at least 9 young (BFH). At the power plant ponds near Council Bluffs, 5 birds were present on 23 Jun (JJD) and 2 on 23 Jul (BKP, LJP) but no nests were reported.

**Black Tern:** 50 were at Grover's L. on 6 Jun and some were thought to be nesting (NBe). From 1 to 20 were reported in Cerro Gordo, Clay, Dickinson, Greene, Jackson, Kossuth, Linn, Palo Alto, Sac, Sioux, Story, and Woodbury counties (RGo, JJD, NBe, PJW, MPr, BPr, MCK, DLD, JV, HZ, BFH) but in none of those reports was there any indication of nesting; presumably they were migrants or non breeders.

**Black-billed Cuckoo:** From 1 to 3 were found in Appanoose, Hancock, Lee, Polk, and Woodbury counties (RLC, JJD, MPr, DT, BE, BFH). Several observers commented on the scarcity of this species.

**Yellow-billed Cuckoo:** From 1 to 5 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Cerro Gordo, Delaware, Fremont, Jackson, Johnson, Lee, Linn, Marshall, Plymouth, Pocahontas, Polk, Van Buren, and Warren counties (RLC, MPr, BPr, RGo, DLD, BFH, DT, AMJ). Spring migrants seemed to arrive about the first few days of June (see spring report).

**Barn Owl:** A pair at a nest at Zelbert Freemyer's farm in Taylor Co. (BEh, JLF) was the only report and the first nest since 1995.

**Short-eared Owl:** 1 was seen several times near Kellerton in Ringgold Co. in June (PMe, Mel Moe fide JJD) and may have been nesting.

**Common Nighthawk:** Observers in Polk (DT) and Sioux (JV) counties commented on the scarcity of this species this summer.

**Chuck-will's-widow:** 1 or 2 were at the usual site near Waubonsie S.P. (MPr, BPr, JLF, MT, JBB). Tiemann and Braley had the thrill of actually seeing one fly over them.

**Whip-poor-will:** 3 calling at Watermann Prairie W.A. in O'Brien Co. in June (DK) was somewhat out of its usual range.

**Ruby-throated Hummingbird:** 1 or 2 were seen in Allamakee, Cherokee, Delaware, Dickinson, Dubuque, Fayette, Fremont (nest), Lee, Marshall, Polk, Sioux, Warren, and Winneshiek counties (DeC, PE, MPr, BPr, JJo, ETh, RTh, BE, DT, JV, JSi).

**Hairy Woodpecker:** An adult was feeding 2 young in Dickinson Co. on 29 Jun (JJo).



- Pileated Woodpecker:** A nest at Ledges S.P. that apparently fledged 2 young was a county first (JJD).
- Olive-sided Flycatcher:** All: Singles at the Iowa R. greenbelt in Hardin Co. on 6 Jun (MPR), near Waubensie S.P. on 7 Jun (RTh), and at A.A. Call S.P. in Kossuth Co. on 8 Jun (MCK) were all a bit late.
- Yellow-bellied Flycatcher:** All: 4 at 3 places in Kossuth Co. on 1-2 Jun (MCK), 2 at Horseshoe Bend P. in Dickinson Co. on 4 Jun (LAS), and 1 at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 8 Jun (MCK) [ties 2nd latest].
- Acadian Flycatcher:** From 1 to 6 were reported in Fayette, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, Linn, Polk, and Van Buren counties (MPR, BPR, CE, MCK, DLD, BE). One at Little Sioux R. access in Clay Co. on 1 Jun (LAS) was out of its usual range.
- Alder Flycatcher:** All: singles at Dudgeon L. in Benton Co. (MPR, BPR) and at Algona (MCK), both on 1 Jun, were the only reports, somewhat surprising for this late migrant.
- Willow Flycatcher:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Appanoose, Cerro Gordo, Clay, Dickinson, Jackson, Story, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (RLC, RGo, JJD, MPR, BPR, PM, DeC, BFH).
- Least Flycatcher:** All: Singles at Algona on 2 Jun (MCK) and at Liscomb in Marshall Co. on 4 Jun (MPR) were probably late migrants.
- Western Kingbird:** Other than 1 at the state capitol grounds in Des Moines where they have nested for several years (BE) and 1 along the Little Sioux R. in Clay Co. on 1 Jun (LAS), all the reports were from the westernmost counties.
- Eastern Kingbird:** Observers in central (DT) and southwestern (MT, JBB) Iowa thought numbers were down.
- Scissor-tailed Flycatcher:** All: 1 made a brief appearance on 12 Jul at Rippey in Boone Co. (SRL, details).
- Purple Martin:** Both Cummins and Van Dyk thought that martins had a successful year.
- Cliff Swallow:** Observers in northeastern (DeC) and northwestern (JV) Iowa thought numbers were up while Hollis noted a colony in Iowa City was much smaller this year.
- Black-billed Magpie:** On 25 Jun, 3 fledglings were seen with the 2 adults that have been monitored north of Sioux City in Plymouth Co. (\*BFH), the first evidence of nesting in Iowa reported in 59 years.
- Brown Creeper:** All: 1 singing at Dudgeon L. on 1 Jun (BPR, MPR) and 1 at Manti P. in Fremont Co. on 14 Jun (MT, JB) were away from this species' usual summer range.
- Carolina Wren:** All: 1 at Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 11 Jun (MPR, BPR), 1 in western Poweshiek Co. on 29 Jun (CV, RV), and 2 that summered in Appanoose Co. (RLC).
- Bewick's Wren:** None were reported
- Sedge Wren:** Several people commented that this species was fairly common this year (BE, JV, RGo, PMe); the most reported was 18 singing at Saylorville Res. on 20 Jul (DT).
- Blue-gray Gnatcatcher:** A pair with 2 young at Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 6, 19 Jul (LAS, PE) is a new county nesting record, and 1 in Sac Co. on 15 Jun (PE) is out of its usual range.
- Veery:** From 2 to 4 were near Stone City in Jones Co. through early July. On 15 Jun, a nest with 1 Veery and 1 cowbird egg was found there, the first confirmed nest in Iowa since 1977. The nest was later destroyed (CE). Other reports from probable nesting areas were 2 near Saylorville Res. in Dallas Co. on 1 Jun (BE), 6 at Stephens S.F. in Lucas Co. on 12 Jun (JSi), 7+ at Backbone S.P. in Delaware Co. on 8 Jul (MPR) and 1 carrying food to young there on 8 Jul (WN), and 1 at Bixby State Preserve in Clayton Co. on 10 Jul (NBe) while 3 at Martin's Access in Cherokee Co. on 2 Jul (PE) are suggestive of nesting although well out of its usual range. One at Sioux Center on 2 Jun (JV, details) was late for a migrant.
- Gray-cheeked Thrush:** 1 in Sioux Center on 1, 2 Jun (\*JV) ties the record late date.
- Swainson's Thrush:** 1 in Sioux Center on 1 Jun (JV) and 1 there on 8 Jun (\*JV) [record latest] were both late.
- Wood Thrush:** From 1 to 7 were found in Allamakee, Cherokee, Delaware, Dubuque, Emmet, Fremont, Johnson, Jones, Kossuth, Lee, O'Brien, Polk, Van Buren, and Warren counties (DeC, PE, MPR, BPR, JJD, CE, MCK, DK, BE), about typical for summer.
- Northern Mockingbird:** All: 1 in Johnson Co. on 7 Jun (CE), 1 near St. Marys in Warren Co. on 8 Jun (PHA, RIA), 1 near Lacey Keosauqua S.P. on 20 Jun (JLF), 2 in Ringgold Co. (PMe), and 1 at Ames on 16 Jul (JSn). The latter was north of its usual range.
- Cedar Waxwing:** 2 flocks totalling 140 individuals in Sioux Center on 29 Jun (JV) was an unusual concentration for summer.
- Loggerhead Shrike:** From 1 to 4 were seen in Adams, Hamilton, Johnson, Ringgold (4 sites), Sioux (brood), Taylor (broods), and Van Buren (nest) counties (MPR, BPR, HZ, DLD, RRe, PMe, JV), fewer than most recent summers.

- White-eyed Vireo:** All: 1 in Warren Co. on 3 Jun (JSi).
- Belt's Vireo:** From 1 to 6 were reported in Appanoose, Boone, Fremont, Linn, Page, Polk, Story, Van Buren, and Woodbury counties (RLC, RTh, MPr, BPr, AMJ, DLD, MT, JBB, BE, JJD, PM, BFH).
- Solitary Vireo:** 1 at L. Meyer in Winneshiek Co. on 18 Jul (DeC) was unexpected.
- Yellow-throated Vireo:** 1 or 2 were found in Appanoose, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Clay, Delaware, Fayette, Fremont, Hardin, Jackson, Johnson, Mahaska, Polk, Sac, Van Buren, Winneshiek, and Woodbury counties (RLC, PE, MPr, BPr, BE, BFH).
- Philadelphia Vireo:** All: 1 at Dudgeon L. (MPr, BPr) and 1 at the Little Sioux R. access in Clay Co. (LAS), both on 1 Jun.
- Blue-winged Warbler:** From 1 to 4 were found in Appanoose, Boone, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Van Buren, and Winneshiek counties (RLC, BE, HZ, JJD, CE, MPr, DeC). One at Smith W.A. in Kossuth Co. on 4 Jun and not later (MCK) was probably a late migrant.
- Tennessee Warbler:** Late migrants were noted in Ames (PM), Algona (10 birds, MCK) and near Iowa City (CE) on 1 Jun with 2 still at Algona on 2 Jun (MCK) and 1 at Norwalk in Warren Co. on 4 Jun (AMJ). One at Mines of Spain in Dubuque Co. on 5 Jul (PE, details) was decidedly late or early.
- Northern Parula:** From 1 to 5 were reported at the usual sites in Delaware, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (MPr, BPr, CE, BE).
- Chestnut-sided Warbler:** All: Singles at Ames (PM) and Union Slough N.W.R. (MCK), and 2 at Wanata S.P. (LAS), all on 1 Jun, may have been late migrants while a male at Hannibal Waterman W.A. in O'Brien Co. on 19 Jun (DK) is more suggestive of nesting.
- Magnolia Warbler:** All: Singles at Algona and nearby A.A. Call S.P. (MCK), both on 1 Jun.
- Blackburnian Warbler:** All: A female at Algona on 1 Jun (MCK), a male in Warren Co. on 1 Jun (JSi), and a male at Smith W.A. on 4 Jun (MCK) were all late migrants.
- Yellow-throated Warbler:** From 1 to 3 were reported in Boone, Jefferson, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Van Buren, and Warren counties (JJD, RTh, PE, PHA, RIA, CE, MPr, BPr, BE, JSi).
- Prairie Warbler:** 2 males were singing near L. Macbride in June (CE, MPr, BPr) but no evidence of nesting was found. Another male was found near Mud Creek P. in Henry Co. on 2 Jun (\*PHA/RIA-photos).
- Blackpoll Warbler:** All: 1 at Norwalk in Warren Co. on 1 Jun (AMJ) [ties 3rd latest].
- Cerulean Warbler:** From 1 to 3 were reported in Appanoose, Dubuque, Johnson, Jones, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (RLC, PE, CE, MPr, BPr, BE) where it is expected. Single males at Lakeside Lab in Dickinson Co. in June (NBe), Martin Access in Cherokee Co. on 22 Jun (PE), and Wanata S.P. in Clay Co. on 6 Jul (LAS) were out of its usual range.
- American Redstart:** Few observers report it in eastern Iowa where it is common. Away from there, birds were found in Boone, Buena Vista, Cherokee, Dickinson, Polk, and Sac counties (HZ, PE, NBe, LAS, BE).
- Prothonotary Warbler:** 1 or 2 were found in Benton, Dallas, Dubuque, Jackson, and Polk counties (MPr, BPr, DT, PE, BE) where it is expected. Away from there, singles were found along the Des River in Algona and near Irvington, both in Kossuth Co. (MCK), and near Marble L. in Dickinson Co. (ETH, LAS).
- Worm-eating Warbler:** All: A male at Macbride S.P. in Johnson Co. on 1 Jun (CE), 1 at Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. on 20 Jun (JLF), and an adult feeding a young cowbird at Shimek S.F. on 5 Jul (CE).
- Ovenbird:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Dallas, Delaware, Dubuque, Fayette, Lee, Polk, and Sac counties (BE, MPr, BPr, PE).
- Northern Waterthrush:** All: 1 in Cerro Gordo Co. on 8 Jun (RGo) [2nd latest].
- Louisiana Waterthrush:** From 1 to 5 were reported in Boone, Dubuque, Lee, and Van Buren counties (JJD, PE, MPr, BPr, CE).
- Kentucky Warbler:** From 1 to 4 were reported in Dallas, Jones, Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (CE, MPr, BPr, JLF, BE). An adult was with a fledgling at Shimek S.F. in Lee Co. on 5 Jul (CE).
- Mourning Warbler:** All: 2 at Sioux Center on 1 Jun and 1 there on 2 Jun (JV), 1 at Macbride Nat. Rec. A. on 1 Jun (CE), and 1 at Dudgeon L. on 1 Jun (MPr, BPr) which is more reports than most years.
- Hooded Warbler:** All: A female at Sioux Center on 3 Jun (JV, details) was far out of its normal range. Other reports were a male from 29 Jun to 30 Jul at L. Ahquabi in Warren Co. (JSi, JLF, PHA, RIA, MPr) and a female in Clive on 1 Jun (BE).
- Canada Warbler:** All: 1 at Algona on 2 Jun (MCK).
- Yellow-breasted Chat:** All: 1 along the Skunk R. in Lee Co. on 20 Jun (JLF).
- Summer Tanager:** 1 or 2 were reported in Lee, Polk, and Van Buren counties (MPr, BPr, BE, JLF).
- Scarlet Tanager:** From 1 to 3 were reported in Allamakee, Boone, Cherokee, Delaware, Emmet, Fayette, Johnson, Lee, Polk, Van Buren and Winneshiek counties (DeC, HZ, PE, MPr, BPr, JJD, BE). Adults carrying food in western Poweshiek Co. on 27 Jun (CV, RV) was the only evidence of nesting reported.

**Western Tanager:** A report will be referred to the Records Committee.

**Blue Grosbeak:** Besides reports from Fremont, Harrison, Monona, Sioux, and Woodbury counties (AMJ, MPr, BPr, RRe, JV, BFH) where it is expected, 1 seen west of Carroll on 17 Jun and 30 Jul (RTh) was east of its usual range.

**Dickcissel:** Observers noted that it was doing well in Sioux (JV), Polk (BE, DT), and Linn (DLD) counties.

**Lark Sparrow:** From 1 to 3 were reported in Fremont, Johnson, Lee, Linn (brood), Plymouth, Polk, and Sioux counties (MPr, BPr, THK, DLD, RRe, JJD, JV). Thirty near Eddyville in Wapello Co. on 19 Jul (RLC) was the most Cummins has seen in Iowa.

**Grasshopper Sparrow:** Observers in Appanoose (RLC), Jasper (DT), Polk (BE, DT), and Sioux (JV) all indicated this species was plentiful this summer.

**Henslow's Sparrow:** Besides the usual birds near Lacey Keosauqua S.P. (JLF, MPr, BPr), 1 was seen in Appanoose Co. on 5 Jul (RLC). A search for Henslow's Sparrows resulted in finding them in a number of fields in south-central Iowa, especially in Ringgold and Decatur counties but also in Taylor and Union counties in July (PMe).

**White-throated Sparrow:** All: 1 in Mason City on 2 Jun (RGo) and 1 in West Des Moines from 20 Jun to 6 Jul (PHA, RIA). The former was a late migrant while the latter bird's lengthy stay is unusual.

**Bobolink:** Observers in Ringgold (PMe) and Sioux (JV) counties, and in central Iowa (DT) thought Bobolinks were doing well.

**Eastern Meadowlark:** 1 at Westport P. in Dickinson Co. on 19 Jul (LAS) was out of its usual range.

**Yellow-headed Blackbird:** Evidence of nesting was noted near Doon in Sioux Co. (JV) and near Sanborn in O'Brien Co. (DK), new county nesting records.

**Great-tailed Grackle:** From 1 to 7 were noted in Boone (nests), Clay, Dickinson, Fremont, Hamilton, Ida, Polk, and Story counties (JJD, HZ, MCK, MPr, BPr, BKP, LJP, JLF, PE, JES, JSI). Females were nesting at Tomahawk M. in Sac Co on 18 Jun (JJD), a new county record.

**Brown-headed Cowbird:** See accounts of Veery and Worm-eating Warbler.

**Orchard Oriole:** From 1 to 5 were found in Benton, Clay, Fremont, Harrison, Johnson, Lee, Mahaska, Monona, O'Brien, Palo Alto, Plymouth, Polk (brood), Wapello, and Woodbury counties (MPr, BPr, JJD, RRe, CE, DK, DT, BE, RLC).

**Red Crossbill:** 3 at Hannibal Waterman W.A. in O'Brien Co. on 23 Jul (DK, details) was the only hint of a repeat of last summer's invasion.

## COMMENT

The most obvious item missing from this report is Pete Petersen's usual contribution from the Davenport area. Pete had probably contributed to more of these field reports than any other Iowan, his first contribution dating back to 1961. I know we all will miss him.

I was pleased to receive reports from three new contributors, Jack Jones of Sioux City and Connie and Robert VanErsvelde of rural Poweshiek County. Both come from areas of the state where coverage sometimes is poor so their contributions are certainly welcome additions. There were a number of reports from flooded fields in Fremont County near Nebraska City, Nebraska. I have referred to this area as Waubonsie W.A. although many of the sightings were made on land outside the wildlife area itself.

## CONTRIBUTORS

Pam H. Allen (PHA), West Des Moines; Reid I. Allen (RIA), West Des Moines; Neil Bernstein (NBe), Cedar Rapids; Jean B. Braley (JBB), Shenandoah; Dennis Carter (DeC), Decorah; Raymond L. Cummins (RLC), Centerville; David L. Dankert (DLD), Cedar Rapids; James J. Dinsmore (JJD), Ames; Chris Edwards (CE), North Liberty; Bruce Ehresman (BEh), Ames; Bery Engebretsen (BE), Des Moines; Peter Emzen (PE), Ida Grove; Steve Fairbairn (SFa), Ames; Carolyn J. Fischer (CJF), Mason City; James L. Fuller (JLF), Iowa City; Rita A. Goranson (RGo), Mason City; Rick J. Hollis (RJH), Iowa City; Bill F. Huser (BFH), South Sioux City, NE;

Ann M. Johnson (AMJ), Norwalk; Jack Jones (JJo), Sioux City; Matthew C. Kenne (MCK), Algona; Thomas H. Kent (THK), Iowa City; Darwin Koenig (DK), Paullina; Sharon R. Laub (SRL), Rippey; Paul Martsching (PM), Ames; Pete Melde (PMe), Marshalltown; William Norris (WN), Ames; Babs K. Padelford (BKP), Bellevue, NE; Loren J. Padelford (LJP), Bellevue, NE; Beth Proescholdt (BPr), Liscomb; Mark Proescholdt (MPr), Liscomb; Russ Reisz (RRe), Missouri Valley; Lee A. Schoenewe (LAS), Spencer; Jane Schuster (JSc), Huxley; Jim Sinclair (JSi), Indianola; John Snyder (JSn), Ames; Ed Thelen (ETh), Spirit Lake; Rob Thelen (RTh), Carroll; Dennis Thompson (DT), Johnston; Marie Tiemann (MT), Shenandoah; John Van Dyk (JV), Sioux Center; Connie VanErsvelde (CV), Grinnell; Robert VanErsvelde (RV), Grinnell; Phil J. Walsh (PJW), Des Moines; Hank Zaletel (HZ), Nevada

4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014

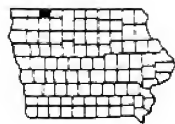


*Louisiana Waterthrush captured in mist net near Castanea, Monona County, 31 May 1997. Photograph by Don Poggensee.*

## CALIFORNIA GULL IN DICKINSON COUNTY

JIM BANGMA AND ANN JOHNSON

On 6 September 1996 we were birding our way through northern Iowa on the way to the I.O.U. meeting. Around 11:00 a.m. we stopped at Spirit Lake to look at a group of Black and Forster's terns and Ring-billed Gulls resting on the rock jetty at the north end of the lake. Our attention was drawn to a medium brown gull which perched on top of a rock for the entire time, allowing direct comparison with nearby ring-bills.



The body of the bird was slightly larger than the nearby ring-bills. However, it stood much taller, apparently due to longer legs. We estimated the tarsus to be well over 1.5 times the length of the culmen, while we estimated the nearby ring-bills to have tarsi under that figure. The rear end of the bird looked extremely short, almost truncated. When the bird spread its wings, we observed that this was due to extensive molt. The four outermost primaries were only partially grown.

The overall color of the head and neck was medium brown, with a darker area extending from the eye back onto the ear coverts. The whitish color of the foreneck

extended onto the side neck and wrapped up behind the ear coverts. The foreneck and upper breast were whitish with mottled brown. The lower breast and belly were brown, mottled with white. The mantle and scapulars were clear gray, significantly darker than the mantles of the nearby ring-bills.

The median coverts (and possibly the lesser coverts as well) were nearly white, standing out in striking contrast to the mantle and greater coverts. The greater coverts were medium brown, appearing very worn. The tertials appeared extremely worn, with an irregular pale fringe. There was virtually no extension of the primaries beyond the tertials. When the wings were spread (outermost long primary considered P10) P1-P6 appeared uniform medium to dark brown, P7-P10 were half grown and appeared black or very dark brown. A number of the secondaries were missing, and those that remained were extremely worn, but appeared similar in color to P1-P6. On the spread upperwing, the faded whitish appearance of the median coverts contrasted with the darker flight feathers and greater coverts. The underwing appeared relatively uniform medium brown, without any significant contrast.

The tail was in extensive molt, but the feathers that were present had a broad dark terminal band. The extent of mottling or lack thereof on the base of the tail and tail coverts could not be judged accurately.

The eye was dark brown. The bill was a dull fleshy gray, with a prominent black tip. The black was clear cut and did not run in along the cutting edge of the mandible. The black extended slightly farther back on the lower mandible. The extreme tip of the upper mandible was white or pale. The bill was substantially larger than that of the ring-bills, and was rather straight without noticeable widening or a prominent gonydeal angle. The legs were a fleshy color, much paler than the pink of juvenal/first-year ring-bills nearby.

We ruled out similar species in the following way: Ring-billed is ruled out by the solid gray mantle combined with the extensive molt of the flight feathers. Ring-bills and similar three-year gulls obtain the gray mantle during a post-juvenal molt. When flight feathers are molted after one year, the body of a ring-bill would be much whiter. Also, the mantle was a much darker shade of gray than any ring-bill present. Additionally, Ring-billed Gull's bill is proportionally smaller, thinner, and more curved.

Herring Gull would be larger. The mantle of a Herring Gull would be paler gray, nearly the same shade as that of the ring-bills. The bill would be proportionally heavier with a more marked gonydeal angle. Herring Gulls may show a black tipped bill, but the black normally blends into the pink of the base or runs in along the cutting edges of the bill. The bill and legs would be brighter pink. Other similarly sized extralimittals can be ruled out by the mantle color as well as bill pattern and shape.

A striking feature of this bird was its leg length. We were aware that Grant (Gulls, a Guide to Identification, T. & A. D. Poyser, 1982) and others mention the shorter legs of California Gull, and the species is frequently described as dragging its wings on the ground. In an effort to better understand this, Bangma examined specimens of Herring, Ring-billed and California gulls at the American Museum of Natural History in New York City and measured the tarsus and culmen on a representative selection of specimens. He found that the median ratio of the tarsus:culmen on these was as follows: California Gull--1.63:1, range 1.41 to 1.86,  $n = 28$ ; Herring Gull--1.42:1, range 1.23 to 1.62,  $n = 18$ ; Ring-billed Gull--1.49:1, range 1.24 to 1.64,  $n = 16$ ). Our field estimate of leg length is not inconsistent with the identification of California Gull.

After submission of this report to the Iowa Records Committee, Bangma had opportunity to directly compare Ring-billed and California gulls. Not only did this bear out the tarsus/culmen length mentioned above, but he noted that the wing projection overlapped as well. Also, in the course of feeding a mixed group of gulls, he noted that the ring-bills in that group dragged their wings on the pavement more frequently than the Californias. While this may only apply to some feeding behavior, it certainly does bring the conventional wisdom into question.

One of the most striking things about the bird was the nearly white median wing coverts. We initially thought the bird had molted these feathers, displaying the white bases of underlying feathers. Under closer examination we felt that the feathers were in fact present, but were extremely faded. Later that day, we examined photographs in Grant (1982) and found a similar appearance in photos 476 and 479. In fact, we were struck by the overall similarity of #479 to our bird, allowing for the progression of molt.

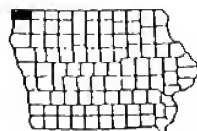
We thank the staff of the American Museum of Natural History, and in particular Helen Hays and Joe DiCostanzo, for their help in allowing access to the gull collection.

*717 Anderson Ave., #8N, Cliffside Park, NJ 07010 and 532 120th Ave., Norwalk, IA 50211*

## CHESTNUT-COLLARED LONGSPUR IN LYON COUNTY

DENNIS HENRICKSON

Chestnut-collared Longspurs nest in southeastern South Dakota and extreme western Minnesota. They can be expected in western Iowa during migration. When an April snow brought large flocks of Lapland Longspurs to the Gruver area, I thought it time to check out northwestern Iowa for Chestnut-collared Longspurs.



Early on the morning of 11 April 1997, I set out, getting to Larchwood at 8:45 a.m. Taking highway K16 out of town, I encountered several large flocks of longspurs but could find no Chestnut-collared Longspurs among them. Turning around at the Minnesota border, I back tracked two miles and turned west on a gravel road. I had gone about three miles when it happened. A lone bird was on the side of the road about 40 feet ahead of me. I stopped and with my 7 x 40 binoculars, viewed the bird through the front windshield. Binoculars can spook birds and, after a few seconds, the bird flew away. It was a male in breeding plumage. I did get a good look at the ventral part of the bird as it was facing me. The large black ventral area was framed in white, and the throat appeared light. As it flew, the black triangle in the tail pattern was obvious. I tried for 15 to 20 minutes to relocate the bird without success. Then I wrote down my observations.

I looked for more Chestnut-collared Longspurs for the next several hours, but I could find only Lapland Longspurs and Horned Larks.

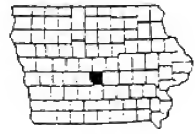
*1371 450th Avenue, Estherville, IA 51334*



# BLACK-HEADED GULL AT BIG CREEK LAKE

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 21 November 1994, I saw an adult Black-headed Gull at Big Creek Lake in Polk County. I watched the bird from 7:32-9:30 a.m. and again from 4:07-4:50 p.m. The bird had been reported earlier on 17 November by Ray Cummins. The bird was feeding with about 100 Bonaparte's Gulls opposite the beach area of the lake. It was clearly larger and longer-winged than the Bonaparte's. The most striking feature was the extensive dark color on the underside of the wing. Specifically, the undersides of the outer two primaries were white, with the undersides of the remaining flight feathers blackish, gradually becoming dark gray in the inner secondaries. Another feature noted was the bright red bill, which was slightly longer and thicker than that of a Bonaparte's. The legs were also bright red. The head, underparts, and tail were white except for a small black spot just behind each eye. The upperwing pattern was similar to that of a Bonaparte's, except that the gray color was much paler. This was especially evident when the bird was perched with Bonaparte's Gulls. This individual did not seem quite as large relative to Bonaparte's as other Black-headed Gulls I have seen, but it was still obviously larger. Based on the wing and head patterns, I aged the bird as an adult in basic plumage.



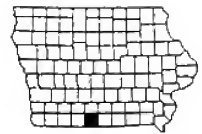
I observed the bird again on 23 November, but not thereafter. The number of Bonaparte's Gulls dropped dramatically after the 23rd, and the Black-headed Gull presumably departed with them. This represents the fourth record of a Black-headed Gull in Iowa. Other records were a basic adult on 2, 4 November 1989 at Saylorville Reservoir, Polk County (S. Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 63:53-54, 1993), an alternate adult on 2 August 1994 at Spirit Lake, Dickinson County (S. Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 66:27-29, 1996), and an alternate adult and a juvenile from 2-12 August 1994 at the Kettleson Waterfowl Production Area, Dickinson County (S. Dinsmore, *Iowa Bird Life* 66:27-29, 1996).

612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521

# FIRST RECORD OF A NEOTROPIC CORMORANT FOR IOWA

STEPHEN J. DINSMORE

On 4 May 1996, I arrived at the Little River Recreation Area in Decatur County. At 2:25 p.m., I noticed a flock of about 75 cormorants perched in trees roughly 500 meters distant. I quickly examined each bird, knowing there was a possibility of finding a Neotropic Cormorant. At the great distance, none of the birds really stood out, but I kept coming back to one bird that seemed a bit smaller, slimmer, and longer-tailed. At 2:45 p.m., at a distance of about 200 meters, the bird in question was easily identified as an adult Neotropic Cormorant. The bird was only slightly shorter than a Double-crested, but was proportioned much differently. The tail was about 50% longer, and the bird seemed slimmer-necked and smaller-headed. The bill was slightly shorter, thinner, and darker than that of a Double-crested. The throat patch was also smaller and duller, not bright orange like all nearby Double-crested Cormorants. The body, wings, and tail were a glossy brown/black color, similar to those of a Double-crested. The lower portion of the





throat patch was bordered by a thin white line. There was no "V" of white in the malar area as depicted in many field guides. There was also a faint white line above and behind the eye, reminiscent of an auricular patch. I also noticed that the rectrices appeared heavily worn; the tips were frayed and at least one was broken off near the tip. In flight, it was noticeably smaller than a Double-crested Cormorant and flew with more rapid wingbeats. On the water, the bird was easily picked out among the Double-crested Cormorants by the smaller body and shorter neck. Based on the incomplete border to the throat patch and worn rectrices, I concluded the bird was an adult that had nearly completed the molt to alternate plumage.



Fig. 1. Neotropic Cormorant at Little River Rec. A., Decatur County, 4 May 1996. Photo by Stephen J. Dinsmore

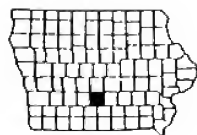
This represents the first record of a Neotropic Cormorant in Iowa. The increased number of records in states surrounding Iowa indicated this species would eventually occur in Iowa. The spring of 1996 saw an influx of Neotropic Cormorants to the Upper Midwest in April and May with records from Nebraska (*Nebraska Bird Review* 64:44, 1996), Missouri (*Field Notes* 50:286, 1996), and Illinois (*Field Notes* 50:286, 1996).

612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521

## A RECORD LATE CAPE MAY WARBLER IN IOWA

JIM SINCLAIR

On 14 November 1997 as I sat at my desk in our kitchen area, a small warbler landed on one of our suet feeders, which hang in front of our kitchen windows. My immediate assumption was a somewhat late, but certainly not totally unexpected, Yellow-rumped Warbler. I approached the window and was able to observe the bird within three feet, for approximately two minutes, at which time the bird flew into some nearby evergreens. By this time I was not at all sure of what I had just seen. As I stood gazing out the window, mentally cataloging field marks, the bird returned for another brief feeding stint and then departed again.



This small warbler was basically gray-green above with faint streaking on the back and a dirty cream color with medium streaking on the breast and flanks. The head was the same gray-green with a white throat, a faint supercilium, and a small, slightly decurved bill. The pale hint of a neck collar was noticeable at close range. The median primary coverts were edged with white forming a narrow wing bar. The rump, the only dash of color on the whole bird, was a greenish-yellow which, because of the general dullness of the bird, probably appeared brighter than it really was. After the second opportunity to observe the bird, I was convinced that I was looking at a female Cape May Warbler, probably a first-year bird. A quick glance at the National Geographic Society field guide confirmed the identification.

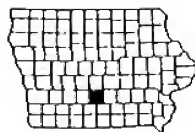
The Cape May Warbler is a long-distance migrant that winters in the West Indies. Most Cape May's have departed Iowa by the end of September with an occasional October straggler and two previous November records. This bird was present from 14 November through 18 December, the first winter record of the species in Iowa. Its frequency of occurrence at our suet feeders corresponded directly with the severity of the weather. When the weather was warm and sunny, the warbler visited us little or not at all. Twice during periods of benign weather I saw it foraging in evergreens in our neighborhood. When the weather was more inclement, the bird was a frequent visitor to the commercial suet cakes, sometimes feeding and then roosting on the top of the feeder. I last saw the warbler late in the afternoon of 17 December, and my son, Taylor, saw the bird briefly on the morning of the 18th. On the 18th a massive cold front, bringing with it record low temperatures, swept into Iowa and presumably terminated this Cape May Warbler's experiment in overwintering in Iowa.

810 North B Street, Indianola, IA 50125

## HOARY REDPOLL IN WARREN COUNTY

ANN JOHNSON

The morning of 3 February 1996 was bright and sunny but bitterly cold. At approximately 7:30 a.m. I looked at my niger feeder 20 feet from the window and saw a Common Redpoll. It was soon joined by another redpoll which was much paler in comparison. The second bird was ultimately identified as a Hoary Redpoll.



I observed the bird, and two Common Redpolls, throughout the weekend and took numerous photographs. A number of other observers also saw the bird that day through 12 February.

This was a very pale bird in comparison to the browner Common Redpolls. The mantle background was light buff on the scapulars and white on the back with much gray-brown streaking extending up the neck to meet the red cap. The lower scapulars were whitish, as were the edges of the secondaries and tertials, contrasting with the brownish-gray cast to the mantle. The greater coverts had a fairly substantial white edge. The breast and belly were white with some flank streaking which extended perhaps two-thirds of the way to the tail. Although the streaking was not pencil thin, it was not as bold as on the Commons. The rump was white but the uppertail coverts were streaked.

The face was buffy with a very noticeable buffy-gray auricular patch. The bird had a small patch of black at the base of the lower mandible but the rest of the throat was buffy. The bill was bright yellow and small in comparison to the Commons and to goldfinches. At the base of the upper mandible was a small black spot, and the forehead was white up to the red cap on the crown. This cap was fairly small and extended back only to a point about even with the eye. A white superciliary separated the dark buffy cheek from the red cap. A black line ran through the eye.

Much of the time the bird fed on the back side of the feeder in a position where I could clearly see the underparts. The undertail coverts were immaculately white with the exception of a gray center towards the end of the two longest covert feathers. This position also helped verify the shortness of the flank streaking.

Often, all three birds were on the feeder concurrently which allowed for a number of comparisons. While the streaking on the back of this bird made it look somewhat

dark from above, the underlying color was lighter than the warmer, darker brown of the Commons. This feature combined with the white feather edgings to the secondaries, tertials, and scapulars gave the bird the paler appearance of a Hoary. The broad white edge to the greater coverts was much more distinct than on either of the Commons.

The buffy face and strong white superciliary are characteristics of Hoary Redpoll. The smaller red cap also lends itself to Hoary. The bill was tiny in comparison to the Commons, and the upper mandible was fairly straight.

The difference in flank streaking was very obvious. Besides the shorter lines of the Hoary, they were also not nearly as bold and heavy as those on the Commons. Although they were not thin, some white feathers seemed to create breaks on the streaking, giving the appearance of lighter lines.

The undertail coverts are perhaps the most striking difference between Hoary and Common redpolls. Commons usually have heavily streaked undertail coverts. Adult males with bright red breasts may show only one streak, but since this bird was not even pink on the breast, and had only one feather tip even dusky, the undertail coverts are the strongest argument for identification as a Hoary Redpoll. The extent of streaking and the darker color on the mantle are probably indicative of a first-winter bird of the expected subspecies *exilipes*.

532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211

## I.O.U. BUSINESS BOARD OF DIRECTORS

Shueyville, 20 September 1997, 12:35-1 :25

Mark Proescholdt, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary

Present: Jim Dinsmore, Maridel Jackson, Mary Kuhlman, Curt Nelson, Mark Proescholdt, Jim Scheib, Carol Thompson.

Rare Bird Hosts: It was moved (Thompson, seconded by Scheib) to present certificates of appreciation and 1998 memberships to Lucy Rimler of Ames, Annie Leich of Glenwood, and Ruth Winebrinner of Spirit Lake. The board discussed whether this recognition process needs to be done faster. No changes in the procedure were made.

REAP Grant: Proescholdt announced that the REAP Grant has been approved. The I.O.U. has committed \$2,000 to this educational project and has agreed to be the sponsoring organization.

Life Membership Dues: Dinsmore distributed information about the cost of life memberships. The current rate for a life membership is low compared to the yearly rate for regular membership. He suggested that the payment for life memberships be tied to regular dues on a set ratio. The board will consider options at the spring board meeting.

Spring 1998 Meeting: Dinsmore reported on plans for the 75th anniversary meeting. It will be held on 15-17 May at the Maple-Willow-Larch residence hall complex at Iowa State University. Plans are being made for an outside speaker. Big Bluestem Audubon will be the local hosts. Commemorative t-shirts and hats are planned.

Fall 1998 Meeting: The fall 1998 meeting is tentatively scheduled for Des Moines. The board discussed whether two meetings should be held in central Iowa in 1998. The board felt it was not a problem.

Nominating Committee: Proescholdt announced the appointment of Pam Allen, Ann Barker, and Carol Thompson to the nominating committee. A secretary, treasurer, and two board members will be elected at the spring meeting.

Warbler Voice Cards: Jim Scheib announced that cards are available for \$.25 each. The board thanked Scheib for making these.

Next Board Meeting: Proescholdt announced that the spring board meeting is scheduled for March.

## FALL BUSINESS MEETING

Shueyville, 20 September 1997, 4:15-5:25 p.m.

Mark Proescholdt, presiding, Mary Kuhlman, secretary

The president began the meeting with a short tribute to the memory of Pete Petersen, longtime I.O.U. member who died in July.

The treasurer's report for January to August 1997 was distributed. It showed an excess of expenses over revenues and support of \$14,142.49. Major expenses were purchase of copies of the *Iowa Breeding Bird Atlas* for school libraries and the educational booklet..

### Committee Reports

Records: Tom Kent reported that the committee is up to date on records. They are anticipating changes in the checklist.

Membership: No report.

Publications: Harold White reported that there is one vacancy on this committee.

Library-Historical: Hank Zaletel reported that he continues to collect material. The committee is planning to use some of the historical materials for a 75th anniversary display.

Nominations: Proescholdt announced the appointment of Pam Allen, Ann Barker, and Carol Thompson to this committee. Elections will be held at the spring meeting for secretary, treasurer, and two board members.

Feeder Survey: Rick Hollis reported that he has met with two Iowa State University students who will be analyzing the data collected the last few years. The report will be given at the fall 1998 meeting and a paper will be published. Plans have been made for the feeder survey to continue this winter.

Partners in Flight: Carol Thompson reported that the group needs an educational chairman.

Birdline: No report.

I.O.U. Web Page: Ann Johnson reported that the South Dakota Ornithologists' Union has linked their web page to ours. The Records Committee will be adding information to the web page.

Breeding Bird Atlas: Carol Thompson reported that the atlas data will be added to the web page in the future.

REAP Grant: Hank Zaletel reported that the REAP grant was awarded for developing a middle school curriculum called, "One Bird, Two Worlds." I.O.U. has committed \$2,000 to this project and is the sponsoring organization. Zaletel also announced that the new printing of the elementary educational booklet is available for \$7.00.

Field Reports: Proescholdt encouraged members to make reports.

Upcoming Meetings: The 1998 spring meeting will be 15-17 May at Iowa State University in Ames. The 1998 fall meeting will be in the Des Moines area. Des Moines Audubon is the local host. Proescholdt asked for proposals for future meetings.

### Old Business

There was no old business.

### New Business

It was moved (White, seconded by Hollis) that the board establish a policy for granting I.O.U. money for outside projects. Motion carried.

Rare Bird Host Awards: Proescholdt announced that the board awarded certificates of appreciation and 1998 memberships to Lucy Rimler of Ames, Annie Leich of Glenwood, and Ruth Winebrinner of Spirit Lake.

Proescholdt announced that the cost of I.O.U. life memberships will probably be raised next year. They can currently be purchased for \$300.

### Announcements

Proescholdt thanked the Iowa City Bird Club for their work as local hosts for the meeting.

Proescholdt announced that he has received information about plans for an Upper Mississippi birding trail system consisting of eight loop trails between Minneapolis and the Quad Cities. Fred Leshner of LaCrosse, Wisconsin is one of the coordinators of this project.

Bob Cecil announced that he is planning a trip to Mexico on 14-22 February 1998. I.O.U. members are invited. This is not an official field trip.

Opponents of the Mourning Dove hunting season were asked to speak to Jim Sinclair.

Jim Dinsmore announced that the Myrle Burk Scholarship has been awarded to four university students. I.O.U. memberships accompany this award. The meeting adjourned at 5:25 p.m.

## BOOK REVIEW

**The Birds of Story County** by Stephen J. Dinsmore and Hank Zaletel, illustrated by Paul Hertzell. Published by the authors, Ames, Iowa, May 1996. 38 pp., \$3.00. *The Birds of Story County* summarizes all of the bird records for Story County, Iowa through the date of publication. The monograph begins with an introduction and an explanation of its contents. A brief description of the county's natural history and a gazetteer listing all of the locations referred to in the species accounts are included.

Species status, abundance, and seasonal occurrence are defined in the introductory pages. The ranges in dates of occurrence cover the expected and extreme dates for each species. The authors include a list of observers and acknowledgments, a map of the county, and a reference to some of the popular birding areas in Story County. The species accounts comprise the bulk of the contents. The list of 300 species includes 220 regular species along with casual, accidental, and extirpated species. By listing the birds by their common names in accordance with the sixth edition of the A.O.U. checklist and recent supplements, the authors have provided us with a compact and easy-to-follow reference guide. The authors included space for additional notes and plan to update the publication as corrections, additions, and new information become available.

In summary, I thought the authors did a fine job of compiling the county bird records and would recommend the booklet to birders who want more species information for Story County.

*Michael C. Meetz, 20267 580th Ave. Nevada, IA 50201*

### FIFTY YEARS AGO IN IOWA BIRD LIFE

The two lead articles in the fall 1947 issue of Iowa Bird Life both discuss bird migration. The first, by William Youngworth, describes his experiences observing the Sandhill Crane migration through the Platte River valley in spring. He saw relatively few birds, and he suggests that the total number of cranes moving through the area may have been only around 1,000 birds. This is far from the hundreds of thousands of cranes that gather in that area now and suggests that either the number of cranes has increased greatly or their migration patterns have changed. The other article, by Jack and Mary Musgrove, describes the migration of Snow Geese through the Missouri Valley in western Iowa. A map showing places where the geese concentrated includes some sites that are still popular with Snow Geese (e.g., Forney Lake, Blue Lake) but other areas that are favored now (Riverton, De Soto National Wildlife Refuge) had not been created at the time of the article. The Musgroves describe seeing vast numbers of geese in the Missouri Valley and indicate that the count one spring was about 500,000 birds, rivaling recent peak counts. These two articles provide valuable historical information on the migration of two species that have captured tremendous public interest in recent years and add further proof of the value of documenting such phenomena now for the use of future workers.--ed.





The IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION, founded in 1923, encourages interest in the identification, study, and protection of birds in Iowa and seeks to unite those who have these interests in common. *Iowa Bird Life* and *I.O.U. News* are quarterly publications of the Union.

---

## EDITORIAL STAFF

James J. Dinsmore, Editor, 4024 Arkansas Drive, Ames, IA 50014 (e-mail: oldcoot@iastate.edu)  
Robert Cecil, Winter Field Reports Editor, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311  
James J. Dinsmore, Summer Field Reports Editor, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014  
Stephen J. Dinsmore, Christmas Bird Count Editor, 612 1/2 W. Magnolia, Fort Collins, CO 80521  
Thomas H. Kent, Spring and Fall Field Reports Editor, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246  
Peter C. Petersen, Spring Bird Count Editor, 235 McClellan Blvd., Davenport, IA 52803

## SUBSCRIPTION/MEMBERSHIP INFORMATION

Institutions may subscribe to *Iowa Bird Life* for \$15 per year. Individuals may join the Iowa Ornithologists' Union according to the following membership classes: Regular (\$15); Regular as spouse or minor child of another Regular member without publications (\$4 first additional family member, \$2 each additional family member); Contributing (\$15 plus any additional tax-deductible contribution to the I.O.U.); and Life (\$300 as single payment or \$75 for each of four years). Members will also receive the quarterly *I.O.U. News* and are eligible to vote and hold office in the Union. Send subscriptions, membership payments, or address changes to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

## INSTRUCTIONS TO AUTHORS

Original manuscripts, notes, letters (indicate if for publication), editorials, and other materials relating to birds and bird finding in Iowa should be sent to the editor. Accepted manuscripts will generally be published promptly, depending on space available, with the following absolute deadlines: 15 November for the Winter issue; 15 February for the Spring issue; 15 May for the Summer issue; and 15 July for the Fall issue. Most manuscripts will be refereed. All material should be typed double-spaced or hand printed in ink on 8 1/2 by 11 inch paper. Authors should pattern their style after a current issue of the journal. If you want more detailed guidelines or advice regarding the appropriateness of your topic for *Iowa Bird Life*, contact the editor. Manuscripts may also be submitted on computer disk (Word 4.0 for Macintosh or compatible programs). Please submit one printed copy of the manuscript with the disk.

## OFFICERS OF THE IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

Mark Proescholdt, President (1999), Box 65, Liscomb, IA 50148  
Ann Johnson, Vice-President (1999), 532 120th Avenue, Norwalk, IA 50211  
Mary Kuhlman, Secretary (1998), 1300 N. 29th Street, Fort Dodge, IA 50501  
Jim Scheib, Treasurer (1998), 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240  
Other members of the Board of Directors: Beth Brown (1998), Dan Dorrance (1998), Maridel Jackson (1999), Curt Nelson (1999), and Carol A. Thompson (1999).

## STANDING COMMITTEES

**Publications:** Harold White (chair), Ann M. Barker, Dan Dorrance, Jim Durbin, Ron Muilenburg  
**Records:** Thomas H. Kent (secretary), Chris Edwards, James L. Fuller, Ann Johnson, Matthew C. Kenne, Francis L. Moore, Ross Silcock.  
**Membership:** Beth Brown (chair), Jane Clark, Maridel Jackson, Curt Nelson, Jim Scheib.  
**Library/Historical:** Barb Bettis, Dennis Carter, Sue Speker, Jan Walters, Hank Zaletel.

## UPCOMING MEETINGS OF IOWA ORNITHOLOGISTS' UNION

15-17 May 1998, Ames

Fall 1998, Des Moines

## FIELD REPORTS

Anyone observing birds in Iowa is encouraged to report their findings on a quarterly basis to the Field Reports editors. Sample reporting and documentation forms suitable for duplication are available from the editor (send self-addressed stamped envelope to Jim Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014). An article describing the reporting process is also available.

Deadlines for receipt of field reports are as follows:

\*Winter (Dec, Jan, Feb)--3 March (Robert Cecil, 1315 41st St., Des Moines, IA 50311)

\*Spring (Mar, Apr, May)--3 June (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

\*Summer (Jun, Jul)--3 August (James J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014)

\*Fall (Aug, Sep, Oct, Nov)--3 December (Thomas H. Kent, 211 Richards St., Iowa City, IA 52246)

## CHRISTMAS BIRD COUNT

\*Deadline for receipt of reports: 15 January. For forms and instructions write: Stephen J. Dinsmore, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014.

## IOWA BIRDLINE 319-338-9881

The birdline is a recorded summary of interesting recent bird sightings in Iowa. At the end of the report you can leave a message and report recent sightings. Be sure to give your name and phone number as well as the location of the bird and date seen. Call in as soon as possible after sighting a rare bird. Jim Fuller checks the reports daily and updates the recording on Monday, so make sure Sunday sightings are reported by Sunday night.

I.O.U. HOMEPAGE: <http://storm.simpson.edu/~birding/>

## I.O.U. NEWS

Send items of interest for the newsletter to the editors (Hank and Linda Zaletel, 1928 6th St., Nevada, IA 50201).

## MATERIALS AVAILABLE

The following materials may be obtained by writing the editorial office (Iowa Bird Life, 4024 Arkansas Dr., Ames, IA 50014):

\*Order form for back issues of *Iowa Bird Life*: send self-addressed stamped envelope.

\*Field Checklist of Iowa Birds--1996 Edition: 25 for \$8.00, postpaid. Also available at annual meetings.

## REPORTING NEBRASKA BIRDS

Sightings of Nebraska birds, including those within the Nebraska portion of DeSoto N.W.R., should be reported to Loren and Babs Padelford, 1405 Little John Road, Bellevue, NE 68005. Formats for reporting and documentation are the same as for Iowa. The Nebraska Bird Line, available 24 hours a day, is 402-292-5325. Iowa birders are encouraged to report their Nebraska sightings to this number.

## ADDRESS CHANGES

Please send address changes/corrections to Jim Scheib, 10 Longview Knoll, Iowa City, IA 52240

ISSN 0021-0455